1961

DAKOTA TERRITORY Centennial 1861-1961

Conjunction With

UNION COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

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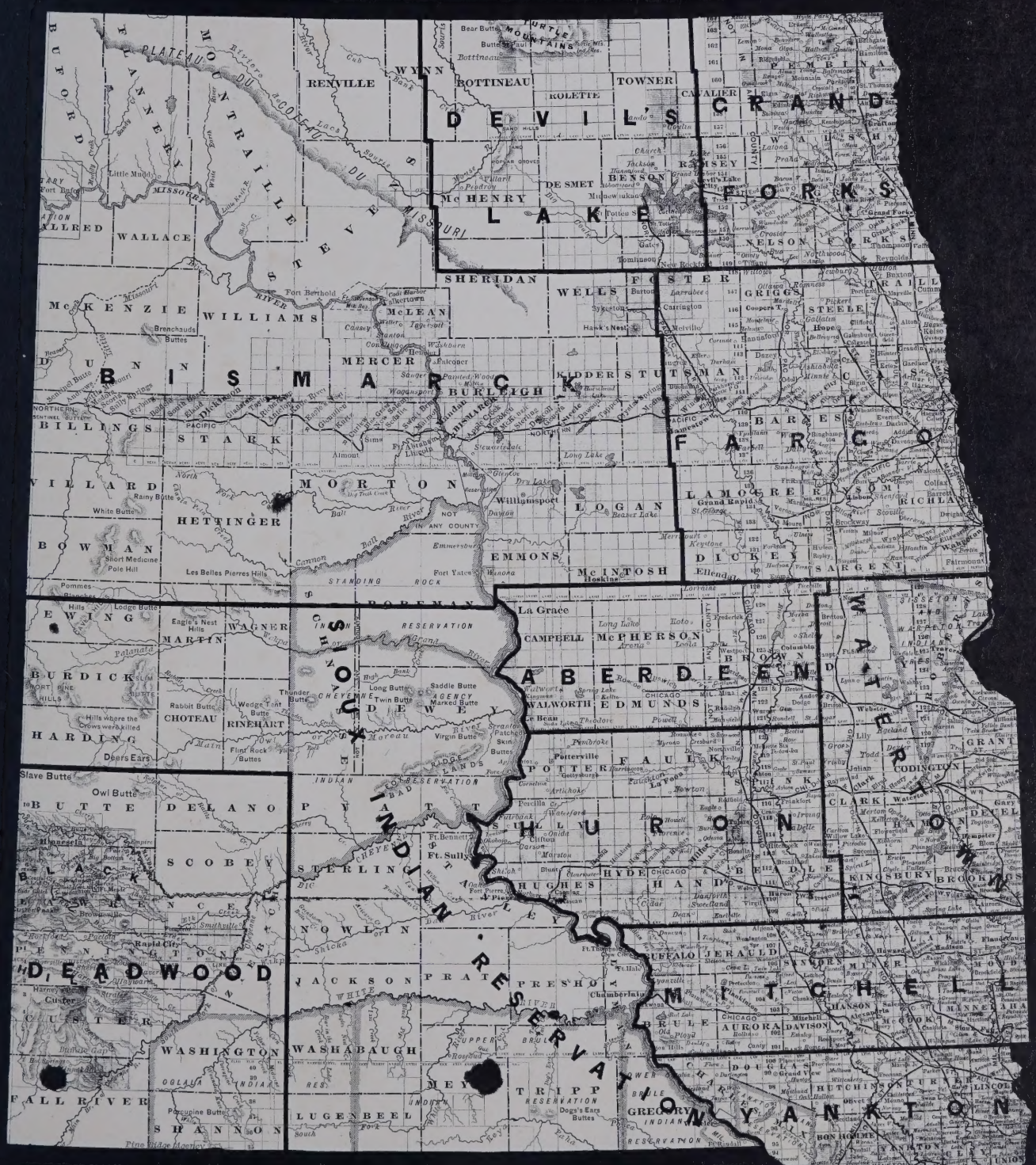

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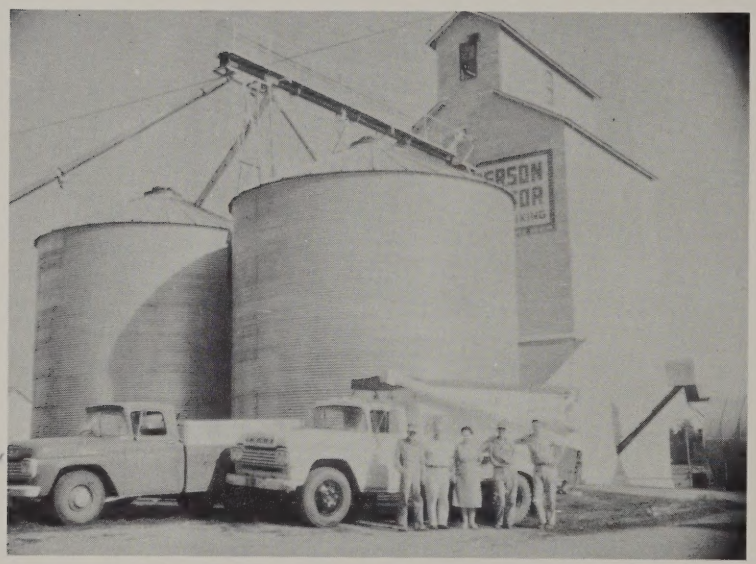

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FOREWORD

American heritage includes settling of the West mid toil, hardships, and even humor. Those valiant pioneers established our democratic way of life and comfortable homes for us from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. We wish to pay a small measure of tribute to them by recording some of the facts about them and their activities in words and pictures.

In our history, we have paused in the Middle West, in Dakota Territory, in Union County, and more specifically in the Alcester Community. It undoubtedly may be hard to visualize this prosperous community of today as a vast expanse of grassland with only a scattering of prairie shanties.

Through the medium of memoirs left by these pioneers to their descendants, we have tried to recapture glimpses of the folks who played key roles in the early history and the development of our fine community. We, also, have tried to bring this history up-to-date to and including the present time, and thus leave it to our posterity.

We sincerely express our thanks to every person who has given us information or helped us in any way.

MEMBERS OF THE ALCESTER CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Executive Committee: Charles Sundstrom, chairman, Marvin Westin, M. D. Bartlett, Mrs. May Rundquist, Harold Lingert, Mrs. W. B. Herbold, and Dr. Shoraga, advisor.

Following are the sub-committees appointed by the Executive committee:

Finance—Oliver Anderson and Richard Johnson.
Projects and Program—The Alcester Commercial Club.
Agriculture and County Fair Board—M. D. Bartlett.
Business and Industry—The Alcester Commercial Club.
Publicity—Harrison Heath, Chairman, Mrs. Rundquist and Mrs. Herbold.
Historical Society and education and book publishing—M. D. Bartlett, chairman, Ed Johnson, Axel Johnson, Mrs. Rundquist, Mrs. Herbold, and Harrison and Ronald Heath, advisors.
Library—Mrs. Win Eaton.
Military—Robert Berg, Marvin Day.
Religious—Ministerial Association.
Sports—G. Crawford and M. Thuringer.
Pioneer Recognition—Conrad Johnson, Bert Wheeler, Fannie Jenkins.
Women's Activities—Auxiliaries of American Legion, V. F. W.
Church Aids and other clubs.
Youth—Church Youth Groups of the various churches.

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THE MAP ON THE FRONT COVER

The map of Dakota Territory on the front cover of this book was obtained from Andrew Anderson of Mound City, Campbell Co., S. D. He obtained and used this map when he located his homestead south of Mound City, in April, 1886.

The map was printed about 1885 and was perhaps made especially for land seekers as it was divided into Land Districts with an explanation of the extent of settlement of each district. As of 1884 Yankton District was described as being completely settled with the exception of a few rough sections.

Also in 1884 the Bismarck District—the largest with an area of about 40,000 square miles, approximately the size of the state of Ohio—had hardly been touched by either surveyors or settlers.

Population figures of towns and cities of 1880 are interesting. The Gold mining boom in the Black Hills made Deadwood the Metropolis of Dakota territory, a population of 73,777. Rapid City was not second then, as it could muster only 240 inhabitants. Yankton was second with 3,431, Aberdeen had exactly no population, Bismarck 1758, Elk Point 719, Huron 164, Mitchell 320, Lead City 1437, Pierre none, Fargo 2693.

The map shows that, of the West River area of what is now South Dakota, only a small section around the Black Hills was open to settlement. The rest was Indian reservations.

DAKOTA TERRITORY CENTENNIAL

By Marlin Bartlett

It was named in 1861,
Just one hundred years ago.
Only a prairie, wild, near barren,
With little worth to show.

It was a wild, fierce, free land
Of heat, drouth, cold and snow.
Now, though changed by man's hand
Of its nature we still know.

It was simply called Dakota
For that fierce tribe of the Sioux,
Who gave trouble in full quota
Before the settling was through.

Officially called Dakota Territory,
Dakota, meaning Leagued or Friend.
It then began its history
That we hope will have no end.

Then, in came folk of every kind,
Arriving by every way.
Dreaming of a home they'd find
If they could only stay.

But it took the courage of a Saint,
The foresight of a seer,
For only a man who ignored complaint
Was the Dakota pioneer.

Hardship was their daily life,
Danger, their common fear,
And only those, strong in strife,
Emerged as victor here.

For it took men of faith in God,
And women of true devotion.
Only they could transform the sod
Of this great prairie ocean.

As South Dakota, it became a state
Back in 1889.
Proof of progress at a rate
That brought its doubters into line.

A century here, now, man has sought
His fortune and his fate,
And despoiling, creating, has wrought
Changes, some futile, some great.

But still, it's a wild, fierce, free land
As may its people ever be.
Never supine, beneath man's hand,
Guided? Yes, but free.

EARLY HISTORY

The territory between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains was called Louisiana and had been discovered by the French. LaSalle had made his famous voyage down the Mississippi in 1681-82 and had taken formal possession of this vast valley in the name of the king of France, Louis XIV. The French controlled the territory except for a short period of time after the Seven Years' War when Spain received the region. In 1800, France again acquired this territory by secret treaty.

Jefferson, who was the president of the United States at this time, viewed these transactions with alarm, and directed our ministers, Livingston and Monroe, to France to enter into negotiations for the purchase of the strip of coast east of the Mississippi River and including New Orleans. Livingston and Monroe exceeded their instructions and negotiated for the purchase of the vast area of all Louisiana for a total of $15,000,000 in 1803 when they became aware of the fact that Napoleon was eager to sell. These great Americans had foresight for the expansion of our country.

The Ordinance of 1787 first gave definite form to the idea of territorial government, which was distinctly a product of American political genius. The government of Louisiana was provided by an Act of Congress in 1805, and St. Louis was the capital of the territory thus formed.

Our particular land area was included in the Territory of Missouri after Louisiana became a state in 1812. Subsequently, it became a part of Michigan Territory, Wisconsin Territory, Iowa Territory, and Minnesota Territory as new states entered the Union. Dakota Territory, created in 1861, included territory that is now found in five states—portions of Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and all of the two Dakotas. In 1873, all except the two Dakotas had been cut from the region. The land area of both North and South Dakota remained in Dakota Territory until the division was accomplished simultaneously with the admission of these states in 1889. Dakota Territory had a legal existence for a period of twenty-eight years.

Lewis and Clark made an expedition up the Missouri River and their first stop on Dakota soil was made near the present site of Elk Point on August 22, 1804. The main motive for exploring the country and then settling it was found in the profitable fur trading business at first. It was not until 1851 that white men had any legal claim to territory within the limits of Dakota. In that year, a treaty was made with the Sioux Indians for opening up land, including a small area within the limits of Dakota, for settlement. The trading companies had opened the way for settlers to come in without legal warrants and establish themselves in desirable locations. They later pleaded "squatters rights" to the land thus pre-empted.

Yankton, Vermillion, and Bon Homme were among the early pioneering settlements. The southern part of Union County also had some settlers come in this pre-territorial period. According to one writer, the first settlement of our county may properly be dated from about 1855 when Christopher Malone settled in what is now Big Sioux Township and remained there until the time of his death. Other authors indicate that the first permanent settlements may have been in 1859. The early settlers concentrated in the area around Elk Point and Sioux Point at the junction of the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers. Gradually, settlers moved northward, and it was in the late 1860's and early 1870's that the homesteaders came into the immediate vicinity of what became Alcester.

The beginning of political government for this region was brought to the settlers when Dakota Territory was formed on a bill signed by President Buchanan on March 2, 1861. William Jayne, of Illinois, was the first governor. He arrived at Yankton to organize the territorial government on May 27, 1861.

The early period of territorial life was characterized by all that goes to make up pioneer conditions—a primitive status of society, sparse settlement, absence of railroads, Indian hostilities, uncertain crop conditions, and the unsettled conditions of political affairs.

At first many of the pioneers lived in dugouts or cellars with walls and floors of earth. Poles and rails, brought from the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers, were covered with dirt and long grass and provided the roofs. During the rainy season, it sometimes happened that both the walls and the roof united with the floor. When the terrible blizzards swept across the prairies, it often happened that the inhabitants had experiences like Jonah. Their first houses were the much spoken of sod houses. They were regarded as palaces compared to what they had lived in at first.

Union County was first created and organized as Cole County in honor of a territorial legislator, Austin Cole, in 1862. January 7, 1864, the legislature rearranged the boundaries of Cole and Lincoln Counties, and the name Cole was changed to Union. This name was probably chosen because of the strong sentiment existing at the time of the Civil War.

Alcester was first called Lima and then Irene. The name was finally changed to Alcester by an English-born railroad official, in honor of a colonel in the British army. The town was founded in 1879 by the Western Town Lot Company. One hundred thirty-five acres of land were purchased from R. B. Harding and Mary Harding and this land was divided into lots for a town site and placed on the market at fifty dollars a lot.

Arrival of Chicago & Northwestern Railroad

The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad crossed from Iowa into Dakota Territory about one mile south of Calliope, a little town on the Milwaukee road—said road having been built a few years earlier. Hawarden was established at that junction and early in 1882 the Northwestern continued on into Dakota.

Martin Flynn had secured the contract to build the first part of the line which took it past the site of Alcester.

The Peter Johnson family had just arrived from Sweden and had settled on a farm about six miles out of Hawarden, this happening to be on the line of survey. And this farm was picked by Mr. Flynn as the place for his construction camp. Several shacks were built and families moved in—all Irish with names like Egan, Dolan, Linnan. A barn was built to accommodate one hundred mules, also there was a blacksmith shop and a store where they bought their supplies.

This store was a busy place on Saturday afternoons—the workers got their pay there, not only this camp but from others farther west. There would be long lines of teams and wagons coming to this store on Saturdays to get their pay and to buy supplies for another week.

Everything had the Martin Flynn name on it, all the grading was done with slip scrapers, one man and team to every scraper. There were several local men working on the job too, they bringing their own horses.

The Johnson kids didn't know any English but it did not take long to learn when they got to playing blind man's buff and ring around the Rosie with those Egan girls, and it was a scream to hear the Egan girls singing "Blinda Bocken o halta man" as they played that game the Johnson way.

The grade was not finished that fall, the camp staying over winter. One Sunday they turned all the mules loose and the whole countryside was covered with mules. It was a week later when they found the last of their stock somewhere over in Iowa.

The following summer (1883) they finished the grade and laid the track. They worked out of Hawarden, the engine pushing a flat car on which was loaded the rails and ties, and crews of men would walk back and forth carrying ties and rails and laying them—another crew would drive the spikes. When the car was empty or at night they would go back for another load or to spend the night.

B. T. French of Hawarden once told me the following: He had started a lumber yard in Hawarden and he knew that they would want lumber in Alcester so he had a car attached to the work train. When they reached Alcester he had the car uncoupled and hurriedly unloaded the lumber so they could take the car back, as there was no side track in Alcester then.

Back in Hawarden, Mr. French went to the depot agent to pay the freight charge on that car of lumber. The agent looked up the schedule and scratched his head and then told Mr. French to wait till they got an agent in Alcester.

After the track was laid the shacks were all picked up, loaded on wagons and moved west to another location; the large buildings were torn down.

Axel E. Johnson

Scared Her Away

Mr. Rudd was a very rough man. He advertised in a matrimonial paper for a wife. She came, and he was to wear a flower so she would know him.

When she got off the train and he spoke to her, she got back on the train, and that was the last anybody saw of her.

ALCESTER IN REVIEW

This review will hit some of the hi-lights of the development of Alcester. Many of the important events, organizations, and buildings are mentioned elsewhere in the numerous histories that appear in our booklet.

Settlers came to the immediate community as early as 1871, but the city must reckon its growth when the Chicago and Northwestern railroad was extended from Hawarden in 1883.

The Western Town Lot Company from Chicago purchased 135 acres of land from R. B. and Mary Harding, plotted it into lots for a townsite, and placed it on the market at $50 a lot. All of the early streets were 80 feet wide except two, which were 100 feet wide. Front Street was the one running east and west at the present Lincoln-Union Electric Building. Main, Hallet, Danforth and Price Streets were the others running east and west and in that order with Price directly south of the present school building. Broad Street, running north and south directly west of the Community Building, and Iowa and Dakota Streets east of it were the other early named streets. The road between the main part of town and what was the Park was called Skunk Avenue, and surely thus named to honor the black and white fur of the animal.

Some of the firsts must be mentioned. The depot was the first building to be erected in Alcester. The first business place to be set up was the lumber business called the Queal Co. This was located on the present site of Great Plains Supply Co. Jas. Rose built and conducted the first store. Tom Knight established the first hardware store. Dr. T. J. Mayers was the first practicing physician and his wife was the first pharmacist to operate a drug store in Alcester. F. F. Slocum had the first barber shop, and O. A. Hoard, the first hotel.

In 1890, E. E. Watkins and his associates from Hawarden, Iowa, started a private bank in Alcester called the First State Bank. Chas. Williams was the first cashier.

The first water supply of the city was from a well dug by Elmer Sherman on the corner of Main and Iowa Streets. The present supply is from the city well system, which was added in 1904, and from a well dug within the past year. The water tower was erected in 1938.

The town hall was built in 1913.

On February 17, 1917, the electric lights were turned on for the first time in Alcester.

The year 1919 marked the beginning of many of our present business places.

George Boss built a swimming pool, which was open for the public, in the northwestern part of the park area in the early 1920's.

A C.C.C. Camp was operated at Alcester during the latter part of the 1930's. The buildings were dismantled when the camp was inactivated, but one of the buildings is being used by Cliff Swenson's "Autos of Yester-year."

Alcester had a storm sewer put in, in 1923. An Erick electric siren was installed in the fire station this same year.

In 1926, Alcester's Radio Company made its debut. Deecort Hammitt had built the outfit himself.

"The King of Jazz" was the first talkie shown in Alcester's new theater, "The Barrymore," in 1930. Previously, E. A. Emmert and Mrs. May Hammitt's sons had operated theaters which showed silent pictures.

Natural gas was supplied to Alcester in August, 1935. The sewage disposal system was completed in 1940.

Present day Alcester is a progressive town with the greater share of its streets hard-surfaced, an up-to-date business district, and a residential area of well-kept lawns and fine homes.

Main Street, running east and west, has some of the newer brick buildings—the State Bank of Alcester, Dr. Shoraga's offices, and the Community Building on the south side of the street, and the Post Office and Oscar Beck's law office on the north side of the street.

Just recently, the former Park area was incorporated with the city. A swimming pool in the northeast corner of the Herbert Anderson Memorial Park is being completed for use this summer. Two new brick churches have been added recently to add to Alcester's attractiveness. Several new homes are also under construction, and the senior citizens will have a home in the not too distant future.

Alcester is an excellent community to call home by its six hundred-some residents. Our community is probably typical mid-western, and it shows the results of the efforts put forth by the valiant pioneers, now several generations removed, who first established their homes here.

ALCESTER SCHOOL

The town of Alcester was located on the west edge of the Finn School District, so for seven years the children went to the Finn School. When conditions became crowded there, a private school was started in town. Miss Minnie Catlin conducted this school during the winter of 1888-89 in the home of A. S. Disbrow, who furnished most of the financial support of this school. In 1889-90, the enrollment had increased so greatly that the school was moved to the Congregational Church and it was under the supervision of Mrs. Kate Amey.

The citizens of Alcester saw the need for building a schoolhouse, consequently, the necessary steps were taken to organize the Alcester School District No. 76. Finn District on the east and Dodd District on the west each yielded one-half mile to the formation of the new district. Thus, under this agreement the new school district of Alcester was to be comprised of three sections—the section on which the town stands and the adjoining sections on the north and on the south. It was a common school district under the supervision of the County Superintendent of Schools for some thirty years before it became the Independent School District of today.

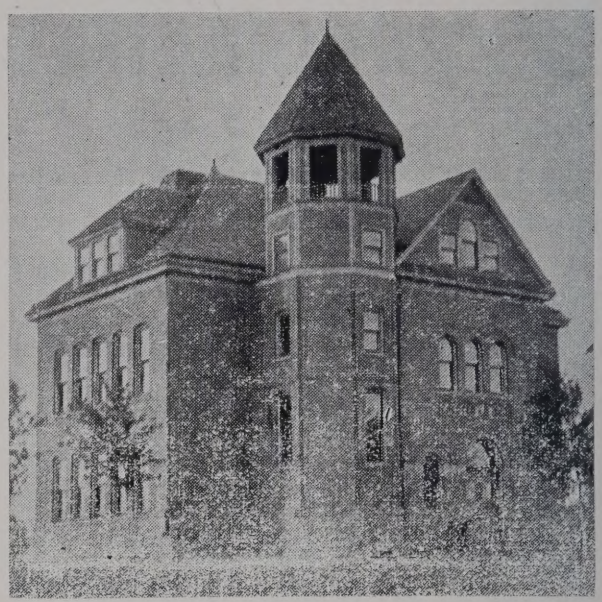
The new schoolhouse was built in 1890 at a cost of $1223.15, at a site where the home of Mrs. Lottie Tunell now stands. Will Chamberlain, who has since achieved fame as a poet, writer, and newspaper columnist, was the first teacher. The first pupils included: Effie Hoard Huff, May Wheeler Rundquist, Hannah Rosemore Weidenfeller, Ray Harding, William Johannsen, and Norman Mitchell. The first school board was A. S. Disbrow, F. J. Meyers, and Ruben Harding. The enrollment continued to grow rapidly and in 1893 another room was added. The ninth grade was included in the 1896-97 school year.

Within a few years, a new brick building was constructed at a cost of $10,000. It was built on the present schoolground but slightly farther back from the street. It was started in 1900, and first occupied on March 18, 1901.

May, 1911, saw the first graduates from a full high school course in Alcester. Two girls, Ethel Johnson and Myra Weed made up the class.

The school populations continued to increase, and crowded conditions were alleviated by erecting an extra frame building on the school grounds north of where the pump house now stands. This occurred in about 1915. It was later sold and moved to a farm two miles south of town.

On October 26, 1928, a new brick building was dedicated. It had been erected at a cost of between $55,000 and $60,000, and it was the original part of the building used at the present time. Improvements continued to be made. In 1947, the school district rebuilt some barracks which had been secured from the Sioux Falls Air Base for a Vocational Agriculture Building.



The Old School

In 1954, an addition was made to the school building, and thus there were extra classrooms, additional library space, a new homemaking department, and a kitchen which is being used for the hot lunch program.

The school has the use of the City Auditorium, which was erected in 1952, for athletics and some other programs.

The Alcester community has always been proud of its school and has tried to maintain high standards. Through the medium of the Dakota, (school paper); the Cubette, (school annual); and the local paper, the Alcester Union, the citizens keep abreast of their school's activities.

Alcester High School has an enrollment of 152 this year and a grade enrollment of 80. The students have a good choice of academic and vocational subjects and may participate in many extra-curricular activities. Alcester is a first class school and is a member of the North Central Assoc. of High Schools and Colleges. W. B. Herbold is the superintendent and E. R. Dobberstein is the principal at the present time.

School Building Built in 1928

DAKOTA SPELLING BEE

By Will Chamberlain

It was a Friday evening in the Dodd school years ago,
And the boys and dimpled damsels gathered there through drifts of snow
To match their skill at spelling with the best Finn School could send,
And the losers were to banquet with hot taffy at the end.
I was the young schoolmaster in the district called the Dodd,
And the daughter where I boarded was the winsome Mollie Shodd.
Mollie was a prairie fire at the orthographic art,
Who at times in my direction sped a Cupid feathered dart.
It was a battle royal that lamplit vanished night,
And the smoky air was pulsing with the fever throb of fight.
Slowly the lines were shortened by that little blue bound god,
Till alone Mark Koor was facing optic flashing Mollie Shodd.
I confess my secret efforts to floor that Finn school boy,
But he was a cool browed Trojan and shamefaced my sly employ.
Jawbreakers were his mutton, fate had chosen him to beat,
And at last, her eyes tear-brimming, he sent Mollie to her seat.
It was my plan, home going, to tell her how I felt
At seeing Mark Koor strutting like a Heenen of the belt;
But when I came to whisper; "May I see you through the dark?"
"I'm so sorry," answered Mollie, "But I've promised that to Mark."

CHURCHES

The Big Springs Baptist Church

by Conrad Johnson

In the year 1868, the first Swedish settlers arrived in Big Springs township or then called Union Creek. Nearly all were Baptists from the vicinity of Orebre, Narke, Sweden, and they had a desire to unite themselves into Baptist church organization, which they did in July, 1869. The exact date is not known.

The organization of the Big Springs Scandinavian Baptist church was held in a sod stable belonging to P. A. Ring. It was organized with seven charter members who were Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Ring, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lindbloom, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Larson, and Per Johnson. Others united with the church later that same year.

The first baptismal service was held July 14, 1872, in the Big Sioux River with three candidates. Between 750 and 800 have been baptized and united with the church since then.

P. A. Ring, a charter member, who had some preaching experience in Sweden was chosen as the first pastor, although he also had to make his living at farming. As a church we have had good pastors which has meant so much to the spiritual growth and interest in church work and missions.

At first these faithful believers met in the various homes for worship but the homes were not large enough to hold all who came, so in 1874 the first church was built and dedicated on June 7, 1874. The congregation continued to grow and in 1893, the present church was built, and it was dedicated on September 21, of that year. This building has been remodeled and enlarged from time to time. It has a seating capacity of over four hundred now.

The first years were not easy as there was much dissension among the members as to the observance of the Sabbath. In 1878, Pastor Ring and several members left the fellowship to join the Seventh Day Baptists and Adventists.

The church had to start with new leadership. C. J. Nilsen, who had had some preaching experience in Sweden, stood firm in observing Sunday as the Lord's Day and he assumed this leadership.

Big Springs Baptist Church

Over 90 percent of our membership are regular attendants or contribute to the church and missions. Almost 100 percent of our boys and girls are won for Christ and are active in the Lord's service. Our present pastor, J. Stanley Rendahl, has served the church since October 27, 1957. He is the fourteenth regular pastor in the 92 years of the church.

In conclusion, may we quote the words of Pastor Andrew Swartz in his history of our 25th Anniversary, "With a look to the future, we wish and pray that the candlestick may stand in its place and the candle may shine from the Big Springs hills until the Lord comes."

First Congregational Church

The First Congregational Church of Alcester has a comprehensive history, which was compiled by Robert W. Shields, the pastor of the church at the time of its Golden Jubilee in 1952, and this is a brief excerpt from that history.

A Sunday School had been conducted in the community since 1875 after W. S. Bell, a missionary of the American Sunday School Union, had found encouragement among the people of the community. Rev. Bell continued with his work in the community by conducting a series of revival meetings in a sod shanty called "Antioch," and it was there that on March 4, 1877, the Congregational church was organized. It was formally called The Grove Hill Congregational Church. The eighteen charter members were: Mrs. Elizabeth Costar, son Harry, and daughter Mary Ann; Martin Luther Disbrow, daughters Addie and Mary, and sons, Arthur Scofield and Edw. Delavan (Reverend); Cynthia Annis Finn; Frank Gibbs; John Ford Gibbs and his wife Harriet Calista; John Gilbert Hoard and his sister Mary E.; Mrs. Hannah Jenkins and her daughters Rachel (Hughes) and Hannah E.; and John E. Sinclair. Rev. Bell served as the first minister, and he also served the church for two other short periods.

The worship services were held at several different locations in the surrounding area before the church was moved into town in the spring of 1885. While the church was being renovated, services were held in the Chicago & Northwestern Depot of Alcester. Quite naturally the church became known as the Congregational Church of Alcester.

The original church, which had been moved into town was made into a parsonage in 1890 when W. S. Washburn became the first married minister to serve the church. A new church was built and dedicated on August 2, 1891. A wing was added to this church in 1916.

The present parsonage was first occupied in

First Congregational Church

1948, and the church was completely rebuilt into its present structure in 1950, and was dedicated on October 1, 1950.

The membership of the church has never been large, but there have always been faithful workers within the church, and consequently the Sunday School, Women's Fellowship, Pilgrim Fellowship and Choir are active.

Over the 84 year span, many pastors have served the church. The longest pastorates were those of Joseph Sharpe (1929-1937) and George Reinmuth (1937-1944). Wilfred Wakefield, who served the church from 1921-1924, wrote a hymn "Bless This Church" for the seventy-fifth anniversary. Richard Seaman of Yankton is the interim pastor at the present time.

Peace Lutheran Church

The history of Peace Lutheran Church dates back to 1875, when a number of German Lutherans found themselves without any Lutheran Church connections, since they had moved here from Iowa. They applied to the Iowa Mission Board for assistance and were then served by a number of pastors and students until 1893 when Rev. C. Wieting, a candidate from the Seminary, accepted a call to serve the congregation.

In the meantime, in 1878, the congregation was permanently organized with the Keisers, Numsens, Wilkens, Johannsens, Draves, Heimans, Hartmans, Rosemores and Fischers as charter members. It was Peter Numsen who donated the land where the church once stood southwest of town. At first, however, services were conducted in the homes, then in the Ludwig School. In 1890 the first church building was erected. In 1893 the parsonage was built.

In 1902 Reverend Wieting accepted a call to Delmont, South Dakota. At this time the congregation called Reverend Rehwaldt. He left the congregation in 1907. Reverend Schuetz was called; he served the congregation until 1920. Rev. A. H. Senne was then called and he served the congregation until February of 1936 when he was called to his heavenly home by his Lord in the midst of the severe winter. The congregation then called Rev. E. C. Beyer, who arrived in July of 1936. During his first year, he installed a pipe organ, powered at first by a generator run by a gasoline engine, until the arrival of the REA service. Other additions were added to the church during this time. In February of 1958 Reverend Beyer resigned from the congregation. Reverend Pittack of Hawarden then served as vacancy pastor.

On the afternoon of December 14, 1958, while the Sunday School was rehearsing for the Christmas program, the church started burning, and the building was completely destroyed. The congregation decided to rent the Alcester Auditorium until a new building could be erected. The congregation then later decided to build in town, and construction began in the summer of 1960. In the spring of that same year, the congregation's call for a pastor was filled. Rev. William Stache, 1960 graduate from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, arrived in August of that same year.

Peace Lutheran Church

The congregation now has 325 souls, with 232 communicants. Groups within the congregation include the Voter's Assembly, the Walther League, the Ladies Aid, the Sunday School Teachers, the Christian Fellowship. and the Choir. The Sunday School numbers 89 pupils.

Roseni Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Roseni Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized in 1872 by the Norwegian immigrants who settled in that community. The earliest names of those connected with the organization were A. O. Utheim, J. Olbue, M. Stenvig, J. Jacobson, H. Heidem, J. Stoum. Erick Ronning and M. Larson.

The church was named after the well-known Swedish christian leader and writer, C. O. Rosenius. The first president was A. O. Utheim—in the early days the group meeting in the homes. Then on November 2, 1873, the first confirmation was held, this consisting of five girls.

The first church building was built in 1876 on donated land—this land for church and cemetery. The earliest church records were burned in 1879

Roseni Evangelical Lutheran Church

when the J. P. Landback home was destroyed in a prairie fire.

On March 28, 1888, the present church site was purchased for the sum of $40.00 and a new church was built in 1895 and dedicated in June of 1896. On February 12, 1902, seven acres of land one-fourth mile east of the church was bought and here a parsonage was built, this land costing $500.00.

In 1911 lightning struck the steeple of the church, causing about $100.00 damage, then on October 16th of the same year lightning struck again, the church burning to the ground. Then a third church was built—this equipped with a large pipe organ. Church and organ are still in use.

On January 23, 1925, additional land was purchased, joining the church grounds, and on this a parsonage was erected, this costing $10,000.00. In 1930 more land was purchased, for a cemetery—this costing $300.00.

Through the 90 years, Roseni has stood on the hill above the Brule Creek as a beacon of light to many souls and now has a baptized membership of 470. The past 30 years it has supported its own missionary, Lyla Sivisund, in Madagascar. Three native sons have become ministers and one a parish worker.

The congregation has been served by the following pastors: Rev. G. L. Graven, 1872-1892; Rev. G. O. Vik, 1892-1911; Rev. S. L. Jacobson, 1911-1920; Rev. E. E. Espelien, 1921-1923; Rev. Nils Klungtvedt, 1924-1931; Rev. M. O. Ensberg, 1931-1941; Rev. B. F. Molstre, 1942-1951; Rev. C. H. Nelson, 1951-1955. The present pastor, Rev. A. P. Nelson, came in 1955.

First Baptist Church

In 1893 the first Baptist family, the A. P. Johnsons, moved to Alcester. In 1895 the second family, the A. E. Edsons, came. The Albert Ericson family, J. A. Swenson, Sevander Swenson, G. A. Lingren, John Edson and Eric Nilson located in Alcester about 1901. During that time a Sunday School was organized and they used the Ofstad Hall for a meeting place.

In 1902 the ladies united to form what is now the Women's Missionary Society.

In 1907 the Alcester group organized officially to become the First Swedish Baptist Church of Alcester. The building program had been started in advance of the organization. The Big Springs pastor, Rev. Christopher Silene, met with the people of Alcester to discuss plans for building. In 1900 the lots were purchased for $150.00 and were deeded to the Big Springs Church Association, then permission for building was granted.

Excavation began in April 1902 by A. P. Johnson, J. A. Swenson and Albert Ericson. They used a small black team and a borrowed plow and scraper. In June a severe storm caused considerable damaged to the unclosed structure, moving it 28 feet off the foundation. A number of men from Big Springs helped with repairs. The building cost was $2797.70. A. P. Johnson, Albert Ericson and Andrew Edson were the contractors. Dedication was held in 1903.

The parsonage was built in 1909.

Improvements such as basement, kitchen, classroom, etc. were made as necessity and finances permitted. In recent years the church and parsonage have had several remodelings.

Charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. J. Peterson, S. August Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Swenson, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Svarry, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nilson, Mr and Mrs. John Bergdale, Andrew E. Edson, Amy R. Edson, Olive Edson, Arthur E. Edson, Pastor and Mrs. Carl Hasselblad, Ray W. Edson, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Johnson, Ralph O. Johnson, Herbert E. Johnson,

First Baptist Church

G. A. Lindgren, Mr. and Mrs. F. William Peterson, Anna Peterson, G. A. Newman, Mrs. C. A. Roti, Arthurdale and Avery Hasselblad.

Pastors: Rev. C. Adolph Anderson, 1907-1910; Rev. Bennett Erickson, 1911-1912; Rev. J. G. Oster, 1913-1915; Rev. Ernest A. Lagerstrom, 1915-1920; Rev. Sphraim Hamlin, 1921-1924; Rev. Martin C. Hamlin, 1924-1927; Rev. E. S. Lindblad, 1928-1929 (he passed away during his pastorate in Alcester); Rev. J. E. Tanquist, 1930-1933; Rev. F. Lowell Anderson, 1934-1936; Rev. Herbert L. Peterson, 1937-1944; Rev. Clifford M. Dickau, 1945-1951; Rev. James Rentz, 1951-1955; Rev. Wilbur G. Peterson, 1955-1959. The present pastor, Rev. Lee Giddings, came in 1959.

Nathanael Lutheran Church

On May 16, 1885, the following men met in the Swen Wennblom farm home: John K. Wennblom, John Peterson, Reinhold Wennblom, Jonas Bergstrom, Martin Anderberg, Eric M. Peterson, Carl Gustaf Sjoman, Eric Gustaf Anderson, Carl J. Peterson, Richard J. Wennblom, Adolph Tunell, Lars M. Tunell, Carl Tunell and Swen Wennblom. Here they that day organized the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church which they named Nathanael—said church affiliated with the Augustana Synod. As was the custom then, the men signed the charter for themselves, wives and children.

The next year a small church was built on ground a little southwest of the Wennblom farm. This building was used for services until the building was destroyed by wind on May 24, 1902.

Then the "North Church," still remembered by most of us, was built on the site of the first building. Here services were held and the congregation grew slowly but steadily.

Yet as time went on it became apparent that the real field for the church was in the town of Alcester. So work was begun there in the homes of members. In 1918 the Methodist Church in Alcester dissolved its organization and sold the church building to Nathanael Church.

Then services were held in both churches until sometime during the pastorate of N. E. Olson when it was decided to center all work in the town of Alcester. In 1957 the North Church was razed.

In Alcester the work succeeded so well that an acute problem arose—the lack of space for worship. During the pastorate of Marvin Johnson it was decided to build a new sanctuary, and a campaign was begun to raise funds. Due to adverse agricultural conditions this building was not erected until Pastor N. E. Bergstrom took on the work

Nathanael Lutheran Church

in Nathanael. It is completed and was dedicated on August 28, 1960. This building, of contemporary architecture, makes everyone in Nathanael feel that God has indeed been good to us.

Thus from the small beginning of perhaps 30 members in 1885 the church has grown to its present 340 communicant members. This is growth by the grace of God and the labors of the fine consecrated pastors who have served the church.

Ministers serving the congregation have been Pastors A. Sundberg, L. E. Sjolinder, Eric Anderson, Olaf Wallin, C. H. Nelson, Emil Johnson, David Edward, Nels Olson, Marvin Johnson and the present pastor, N. E. Bergstrom. There are also many not mentioned by name, both ministers and laymen, who have carried on the work of the church during vacancies.

Dare we say Nathanael Church is in a sense unique? Some over seventy-five years since the day of its organization, worshipping in four church buildings, one building destroyed by wind, one razed, one sold and moved away . . . yet the church does stand!

> Built on the rock the Church does stand,
> Even when steeples are falling;
> Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
> Bells still are chiming and calling.
>
> Excerpt from verse of "Built on the Rock" by Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig.

ALCESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first records of the Volunteer Fire Department date back to May 1894 when John Wallace was appointed Fire Warden.

The first fire equipment consisted of hand operated pumps and hand or horse drawn carts. Some of the earliest members were John Edson, Jack Page, Wm. Rowley, A. A. Treick, Eric Nelson, Vern Postal, Wm. Hone, C. J. Peterson, A. O. Offstad, Elias Bjork, Bert Wheeler, Einer Anderson and Ed Lingert.

In 1921, a second hand model 37 Buick was bought by the fire company which was converted into the first fire truck.

In 1929 the farmers around the area helped purchase a truck which was also to be used for their own protection. The community has participated in the purchase of all other trucks. The department was supported by donations given by rural and city families of this area. The work of all members is donated, none of them receiving any pay.

Telephone operators handled all fire calls until 1943 at which time Mrs. H. Kiel took over until 1956 when four fire phones were installed in member's homes.

Some of the largest fires which occurred were three elevators, Peace Lutheran Church and the Nora Creamery.

The Fire Department equipment of today consists of a 1940 Chevrolet truck, 250 gallon pump; a 1952 International, 500 gallon pump. Each truck carries approximately 500 gallons of water, an auxiliary pump and 1000 feet of hose.

The members of the 1961 Department are as follows: Chief Quentin Anderson; assisant-chief Richard Hughes; secretary, Harold Trandahl; treasurer, Paul Hebert. Other members are: Eldon Newberg, Ivan Ericson, Harold Lingert, Bruce Jensen, Emory Powell, C. W. Pederson, Clifton Jenkins, Lowell Pearson, Harry Peterson, Dean Gustafson, Myron Haddican, Merle Hongslo, Ray Hanson, Marlin Jurgenson, Bud Naeve, G. J. Buum.

ALCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Alcester Public Library was opened on March 10, 1934, in a small room on the second floor of the City Hall.

One of the main enthusiasts in getting the project started and collecting books was Mrs. Boyd Wales whose zeal helped to open the library with a very extensive assortment of about 1500 volumes donated by individuals and the various churches and civic organizations. Books from the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp were donated when the local camp disbanded and Dr. Andrew Hyden's Library was added to the Public Library after his death.

Since then many books have been donated and the rest purchased by the library board. The first library board consisted of D. G. Vallin, Mrs. L. E. Gerber, Dr. E. I. Connor, Mrs. E. F. McKellips and Mrs. Fred Anderson.

Miss Irene Bly was the first librarian, followed by Mrs. V. T. Hanlon from 1942-1945 and by Mrs. Winifred Eaton, the present librarian.

A one-mill city tax levy is used for the support of the library, the facilities of which are free to all city residents. Family cards are issued to non-residents at fifty cents a year.

The library is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 3:00—5:00 and evenings 7:00—9:00.

The need for a larger library was long dreamed of and in 1954 the library was moved from the city hall to the new Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

The Library has expanded considerably, having at the present time 2580 volumes and ten magazines, the newest addition including a set of Compton's 1961 Encyclopedias which were presented by the Lions Club.

Mrs. A. H. Lewis served as secretary from the year 1941 until her death in January 1961. The present Library Board consists of Eva Anderson president; Eva Stroshane, vice-president; Vivian Engebretson secretary; Olive Clementson and Jean Wahl.

ORGANIZATIONS

Royal Neighbors of America

The Royal Neighbors of America is a Fraternal Insurance Society, chartered in 1895. It has a juvenile insurance department, maintains a home for the aged in Davenport, Iowa. It also sponsors a free health service for members.

Camp 7949 of Alcester was chartered May 8, 1916. Charter members are Mamie Boss, Effie Hoff, Nellie Newell, Mable Peterson, Irene Watts, Hazel Harding, Bertha Johnson, W. A. Newell, Verllie Pierson, Lottie Hoard, Valborg Larson, Fayette Nutter, Flo Price, Eugene Hoard, Evelyn Naeve, Zoa St. Pierre. Present officers are Eva Newberg, Oracle; Mildred Skinner, Recorder; Bertha Johnson, Receiver.

Smilax Rebekah Lodge No. 39

The Smilax Rebekah Lodge No. 39 was instituted on October 20, 1919, Hattie B. Borland, Past President and Assembly Secretary.

The charter members were Johanna McLain, Anna Westin, Martha Kuekenbecker, Carrie Weed, Albert Wallin, Valborg Anderson, Lillian Southwell, Sadie Pattison, May Runquist, Jay McLain, Mollie Wheeler, Ida Walin, Lillian Patison.

The Smilax Rebekah Lodge meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

The present officers are—Jennie Wheeler, Noble grand; Neva Peterson, vice-grand; Marie Newberg, secretary; Ellen Long, treasurer; Lena Peterson, right supporter; Valborg Anderson, left supporter; Mable Bartlett, right supporter; Dora Kiel, left supporter. Lulu Vieths, warden; Edwin Johnson, chaplain; Rena Anderberg, conductor; Bertha Johnson, past noble grand; May Rundquist, musician; Bert Wheeler, soloist; Ebba Broline, entertainment; trustees—Maybelle Bartlett, Chas. Newberg, May Rundquist.

R. L. D. Club

The R. L. D. club was organized in January 1925 when a group of interested ladies met at the home of Mrs. Al Myhr in Alcester. The club became affiliated with the South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs in the spring of 1925.

Charter members included: Mrs. Al Myhr, Mrs. Emil Johnson, Mrs. Oscar H. Anderson, Mrs. Robt. Anderson, Mrs. Fred Day, Mrs. S. A. Halseth, Mrs. T. L. Mitchell, Mrs. Fred Brower, Mrs. Paul McKaig, Mrs. D. C. Hammitt, Mrs. Arthur H. Lewis, and Mrs. C. E. Johnson. Mrs. Emil Johnson was the first president.

Mesdames Robert Anderson, Day, and C. E. Johnson are still active as members.

The membership has been limited to twelve so that they can easily meet in a home. The meetings are held once a month from September through June.

R. L. D. promotes high ideals of living through its program, its contributions to worthwhile causes, and by participation of its members in community and church work. An Alcester High School student's audition for Music Camp scholarship at Vermillion is sponsored each spring. Contributions are made to the Memorial Art Center, which is to be built on the State College Campus at Brookings for the preservation of South Dakota art and pioneer relics and histories.

Mrs. Herb Clementson is the president of R. L. D. at the present time.

First Boy Scout Charter

Alcester applied for a "pack charter" in 1954. The committee members, leaders and boys were as follows: Inst. Repres., Gerald Wm. Healy; Chmn. P. C., Moris Hongslo; P. C., George Huddleston; P. C., Harry Peterson; P. C., Rev. James E. Rentz; Cub Master, Carroll Anderson, later Rev. Hugh E. Gackle; A. C. M., E. R. Dobberstein; Den Mother, Mrs. Vera A. Larsen; Den Mother, Vivian Engebretson.

The Cub Scouts were as follows: Ronald DeWall, Tommy Engebretson, James Hongslo, Greg Hammerstrom, Dennis Huddleston, David Jorgensen, Donald Vere Larsen, Harold Naeve, Gerald Emery Powell, Gordon Wilfred Powell, Francis Peterson, Billy Rabey, David St. Pierre, Del Ray Stephens, Richard Trandahl, Bruce D. Johnson, Lawrence Lind, Tracy St. Pierre, Timothy Repp, Marlyn Dietrick, and Leonard L. Elving.

Parent Teachers Association

The Parent Teachers Association of Alcester was first organized in September 1924 with 46 members. The officers were: President, B. W. Brunt; vice-president, W. W. McCreary; secretary, Mrs. A. H. Lewis.

The first P. T. A. became inactive for a few years, but the P. T. A. was re-organized on November 1, 1948, and has been active since that time. Mrs. J. O. Ofstad served as president for two years, 1948-1950. Other presidents since then have been: Mrs. L. K. Dietrich, 1950-52 and 1954-55; Mrs. Elmer Stroshane, 1952-1954; Mrs. Tilman Lappegaard, 1955-56; Rev. Wipf, 1956-57; Mrs. Velma Fickbohm, 1957-59; and Mrs. Myrna Parsons, 1959-61. Ed Heiman is the president-elect for 1961-1962.

The P. T. A. sponsors an annual Hallowe'en party for all of the school children. They are sponsoring a troop of Cub Scouts. They give financial support to the summer recreational program and to the city library. They help with various school projects such as getting band uniforms.

The P. T. A. tries to work for the best interests of the young people of the community, and it is one of the most worthwhile organizations of the citizens of a community.

Alcester Masonic Lodge

The first meeting of the Alcester Masonic Lodge was held in 1893, no specific date being noted. The following officers were in charge of the meeting. W. H. Walrath, W. M.; J. H. Near, S. W.; E. F. Frost, J. W.; T. C. Knight, treasurer; A. H. Haskins, secretary; C. H. Williams, S. D.; F. A. Wyllys, J. D.; John Trude, tyler.

The first three candidates for initiation were William Lee, Frank Slocum, and Solomon F. Lee. On March 20, 1894, Charles S. Finn became a member of the Lodge.

Evidently Alcester Lodge was not officially organized until September 25, 1894, when a special communication was held. The following officers were installed: W. B. Spain, W. M.; E. F. Frost, S. W.; T. W. Knight, J. W.; C. H. Williams, treasurer; A. H. Haskins, secretary; W. H. Walrath, S. D.; A. S. Wyllys, J. D.; John Trude, tyler; F. C. Slocum, S. S.; G. C. Brige, J. S. The first regular communication of the newly-organized Lodge was held October 9, 1894.

On March 13, 1900, Frank L. Doty was initiated a member of Alcester Lodge and in 1950 Mr. Doty was honored at a dinner observing his 50th year of membership in the Lodge. He still lives on the farm northeast of Alcester and has now been a member of the Lodge continuously for 61 years.

In March 1938 the Lodge purchased the building it now occupies. The building was repaired and a new front constructed. Remodeling of the downstairs began in 1946, and the new lodge room was officially dedicated November 20, 1947.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding events in the history of the Alcester Lodge was on April 14, 1954, when a father and his five sons became members of the Lodge. They were Will J. Kratochvil and his sons, Leslie, Charles, Malcolm, Will E. and Donald.

Another highlight occurred on November 17, 1960, when then Governor-elect and now Governor Archie Gubbrud became a member of the local lodge.

Present officers of the organization are: David Westin, W. M.; Harold Stubbs, S. W.; J. T. Johnson, J. W.; E. R. Olson, secretary; C. A. Lind, treasurer; R. D. McKellips, chaplain; Charles Sundstrom, S. D.; Charles Kratochvil, J. D.; Marvin Westin, S. S.; Robert Lind, J. S.; Charles Newberg, tyler; Melvin Harders, marshal.

Silver Star Chapter No. 117, O. E. S.

Silver Star Chapter No. 117 Order of the Eastern Star was instituted on April 21, 1915. The charter was granted to the Chapter on June 9th of the same year. The following were Charter members and each held an office: Blanche Lewis, Worthy matron; Orlin W. Abeel, worthy patron; Flo Price, associate matron; Mabel Peterson, Julia Ofstad, Hilma Axlund, Maggie Bjork, Edith Abeel, Hattie Finn. Henrietta Rosemore, Mae Hammitt, Delphene Trude and Eric Bjork. Five more members were added in the fall of 1915. Four of these by initiation and one by affiliation.

Mr. Abeel, a very able man, was a fine patron and did much to help in organizing the Chapter. He became ill and passed away in the summer of 1916. On June 11, 1940, the Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary with two of its charter members present—Mrs. Blanche Lewis of Alcester and Mrs. Flo Price of Long Beach, Calif.

Mrs. Blanche Lewis served the Chapter as its first worthy matron and later was its secretary for 23 years. Mrs. Flo Price followed as worthy matron.

The Chapter has initiated 202 members since its constitution, and many have affiliated from other chapters. Several of these have moved to other states but keep their membership in Silver Star chapter.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Silver Star chapter has been honored on several occasions by the appointment of its members as Grand Officers and Grand Representatives. In 1917 Mrs. Blanche Lewis received the appointment of Deputy Instructor.

In 1948 the Chapter with the Masonic Lodge moved to the present location in the building which the Masons had purchased and remodeled.

Lions Club

The Alcester Lions Club is one of the newest organizations of the community, but it is proving to be one of the strongest service organizations of Alcester.

The Club was organized on September 27, 1956, and was sponsored by the Beresford Lions. Twenty-five men were installed as charter members on Charter night on October 25, 1956. They included John Anderberg, Oscar Beck, William Beckman, James Culey, Harry Day, Lester Day, Kenneth Dietrich, Ervin Dobberstein, Hugh Gackle, Fred Hansen, Melvin Johnson, Vere Larsen, Wendell Leafstedt, Harry Lee, Harold Lingert, E. F. McKellips, Roger McKellips, Lee Numsen, C. W. Pederson, Wilbur G. Peterson, Louis H. Shoraga, Harold B. Trandahl, James Urich, Robert Van Zant, and Hilmar Wahl. Dr. Louis H. Shoraga was the first president, and Roger McKellips was the first secretary.

The Lions usually meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, September through June, at dinner meetings. The meetings are held at the Bank basement and the meal has been served at Trandahl's Cafe or four Lions' ladies have prepared and served the meal at the bank basement. Twice a year, the Lions honor the ladies with a Ladies Night Banquet with a church ladies aid serving the meal.

A summer recreational program for the young people, a Boy Scout Troop, Junior League Ball

Clubs, basketball for the country school grade boys along with the town youngsters, and an annual athletic banquet for Alcester High School boys are some of the activities of the Lions.

Outstanding concerts such as those by the Sioux Falls male chorus and the chorus from the South Dakota school for the Blind have been brought to Alcester from time to time by the Lions.

A swimming pool has become a reality for our community through the efforts of the Lions. Many Lions donated their labor when the pool was being built, and recently they held a carnival for the benefit of the swimming pool. Any worthwhile cause has the backing of the Alcester Lions.

Alcester V. F. W. Auxiliary

The Alcester V. F. W. Auxiliary to Post 6149 was organized in April 1949 and was instituted May 9, 1949, with 21 charter members and it was under the supervision of the Vermillion Unit.

Mrs. Clifton Jenkins was the first president. Seven charter members, who are still on the roll, include Mesdames Clifton Jenkins, Lena Peterson, Glen Peterson, Fred Millard, Walt Hammerstrom, George Lykken, and Edwin Johnson. There are 53 on the roll now.

The ladies are active in various ways. Poppies are sold each year thus enabling the Post and Auxiliary to purchase wheel chairs, etc., or to assist in other ways in the community. They have also participated in the South Dakota Vet's Hospital program and in the National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich. They help the Legion to honor the veterans on Memorial Day. Service in Comradeship sums up the goal of the V. F. W. Auxiliary very well.

Mrs. Harry D. Peterson is the president at the present time. Others holding offices or serving on committees include: Mesdames Bruce Jensen, Rudolph Twedt, Barbara Johnson, Richard E. Ball Sr., Harold Westling, Emery Powell, Lowell W. Pearson, Clifton Jenkins, Roy Twedt, Ray Hanson, Lester Day, Harry Day, Oliver Williams, Ray Anderson, Morris Sommervold, Clarence Jervik and Audrey Ball.

American Legion Cowen-Nilson Post No. 86

During the month of October in the year 1919, a home-coming celebration consisting of a big parade and dance was held in Alcester for the returning veterans of World War I. Colonel M. L. Shade, state Legion Commander, was the featured speaker and his main purpose was to organize a Legion Post in Alcester.

A special meeting of the World War I veterans was held December 12, 1919. The meeting was held upstairs in the Old Opera House (the building today is the one that houses Swensons Grocery and the Wheeler Anderson Clothing Store).

The meeting was called to order and Ray W. Edson was appointed to serve as temporary chairman and Carl W. Humphrey, temporary secretary. After the reading of the constitution of the American Legion, a motion was made, seconded, that they adopt the constitution as read.

Election of officers was held and following officers were elected. Ray W. Edson, commander; Eskie Johnson, vice commander; Einar C. Anderson, adjutant; Carl W. Humphrey, post historian; E. F. McKellips, finance officer.

The Alcester Legion Post adopted a resolution on December 19, 1919, for the purpose of changing the name of the post to Cowen-Nilson Post, No. 86. The resolution stated that the name of the post would consist of the names of the first two casualties of World War I from the Alcester Community—Robert Cowen and Linus Nilson.

Over the years the American Legion Post has been active in many community projects, sponsoring Junior Legion ball, Soft Ball League, Memorial Day services, summer carnivals, Boys' State, erection of the band shell and they were co-workers with the V. F. W. in soliciting funds for the construction of the Community Building.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 6149

The first meeting of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars was held Thursday evening, Feb. 21, 1946, at the City Hall in Alcester, for the purpose of organizing a post and also for the election of officers.

The required names for obtaining a charter, 30, comprised the first 30 who joined: Lloyd D. Anderson, Quentin H. Anderson, Orrin G. Anderson, Duane A. Anderson, Lloyd B. Arne, Walter V. Goos, Miles W. Green, Ralph F. Hammitt, Robert C. Hammitt, Deecort Hammitt, Jr., Robert H. Hammerstrom, Walter A. Hammerstrom, Ronald H. Heath, Harrison H. Heath, Virgil T. Hanlon, Clarence Jensen, Thomas P. Johnson, Marvin E. Johnson, Charles W. Johannsen, Leonard H. E. Ludwig, Warren Mitchell, Donald P. Nygaard, Lars H. Olson, Glen I. Peterson, H. Robert Purdy, John A. Swenson, Theodore L. Thompson, Leander A. Trudeau, Marvin H. Westin, Henry C. Wilkens. The Charter was issued February 27, 1946.

The following were elected: Walter V. Goos, commander; V. T. Hanlon, senior vice commander; Walter A. Hammerstrom, Jr., vice commander; Ronald H. Heath, quartermaster; Donald P. Nygaard, post advocate; Lowell W. Pearson, chaplain; Robert H. Hammerstrom, surgeon; trustees—3-yr. term, John A. Swenson; 2-yr. term, Charles W. Johannsen; 1-yr. term, Lars Hugo Olson.

The appointive officers were: Marvin H. Westin, adjutant; Ted Thompson, officer of the day; Miles Green, patriotic instructor; Arthur C. Peterson, post historian; Virgil T. Hanlon, post service officer; Henry C. Wilkins, post legislative officer; Quentin Anderson, sergeant major; Leander A. Trudeau, quartermaster sergeant; guards, Or-

rin Anderson and Marvin C. Day; color guards, Marvin E. Johnson and Donald E. Anderson.

The installation of these officers was held on February 28, 1946, Dr. F. H. Dickman, V. F. W. Department Commander of South Dakota, in charge of the ceremony.

A drive spearheaded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion got under way July 18, 1946, to erect a Veterans' Memorial Hall in Alcester.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars have not only been active in all community activities, but they donated funds for sponsoring swimming programs, summer recreation, Junior baseball, Memorial Day services, families in distress, Red Cross. For years they have had two hospital beds and two wheel chairs available for public use. The Post has a uniformed Color Guard and Firing Squad for Military Funerals.

The Post home is being purchased at present, and a "mortgage burning bee" is hoped for soon.

The V. F. W. serves as the Blood Donor Bank of the community, so anyone in need of blood contacts the Commander or the Manager.

The elective officers of the Post for the year 1961 are: Raymond W. Anderson, commander; Wesley F. Arends, senior vice commander; Arthur C. Peterson, junior vice commander; Walter V. Goos, quartermaster; Marvin H. Westin, post advocate; Lowell W. Pearson, chaplain; Glen I. Peterson, surgeon.

American Legion Auxiliary, Cowen-Nilson Post No. 86

On January 4, 1921, the American Legion voted to hold a special meeting on January 18, 1921, to organize an Auxiliary unit. There were 11 charter members.

In January, 1946, three charter members were presented with 25-year pins, and these three are still members of the Auxiliary. They are: Valborg Anderson, Eva Anderson and Winifred Eaton.

Through 40 years, the organization has continued with its work—sometimes with a small membership, sometimes with a larger one. The Auxiliary's main purpose is to help with the work for service men in hospitals—making bed socks, bedside bags, etc, besides donating gifts for the Christmas Gift Shop. Carpet rags are sewed and nylons are collected for making rugs at the Rehabilitation Center at Hot Springs. Many donations have been made of articles for use at the hospitals at Sioux Falls, Hot Springs and Fort Meade.

Each year something is done for community service. For the past 15 years the Auxiliary has sent an outstanding Junior girl of Alcester High School to Girls' State at the Dakota Wesleyan University campus, at Mitchell.

Poppies made by Veterans at Hot Springs are sold on the Saturday before Memorial Day to aid Veterans, and to remember those who lost their lives.

The Auxiliary joins with the Legion, V. F. W. and the Commercial Club in arranging the programs for Memorial Day, and prepares evergreen sprays with poppies to decorate the graves of the soldiers who gave their lives for their country.

Odd Fellows Lodge No. 128

The Odd Fellows Lodge No. 128 of Alcester was instituted December 28, 1894. The charter members were Lee Kingery, Hans Anderson, Thomas Edson, George Doty, Henry Corbett, Ulysess R. Ashmore.

The Alcester Odd Fellows Lodge meets on the first and third Monday of each month.

Officers are: Merle Anderberg, noble grand; Edwin Johnson, right supporter; Rudolph Vieths, left supporter; Charles Newberg, Vice Grand; Emory Powell, right supporter; Wayne Anderberg, left supporter; Ward Costar, secretary; C. M. Olson, treasurer; George Anderberg, warden; Iner Anderson, conductor; Bert Wheeler, chaplain; Henry Holmdahl, inside guard; Ward Goldy, outside guard; trustees, Rudolph Vieths, Edwin Johnson, B. B. Wheeler.

THE NEWSPAPER

Alcester has had a newspaper since 1889, when a man by the name of Varce (first name unknown) set up the first printing plant in the town. The newspaper has always been known as the Alcester Union.

Early records of the newspaper are missing, but early residents recall that the paper was at one time printed in a room under what is now the Corner Cafe building. Later the plant was moved to what is now the I. O. O. F. hall, and in the early 1930's the plant was moved to its present location by Henry D. Wright, then publisher.

Mr. Varce apparently published The Alcester Union for only a short time, and it was then taken over by W. A. Kelly and later O. A. Abeel was owner for seven years.

In January 1903 The Alcester Union was sold to Chas. J. Peterson, who was publisher until his death in 1925. Mrs. Peterson continued to own the newspaper and it was managed until March 1, 1926, by A. E. Knapp of Sioux City. Alvin F. Johnson of De Forest, Wisc., purchased the newspaper from Mrs. Peterson, but he was here only a short time, and on June 15, 1926, the paper was sold to H. L. Loft of Sioux City.

On February 7, 1929, Mr. Loft sold the Alcester Union to Elmer Tucholke of Prescott, Wisc., who edited the paper until March 1, 1932, when it was purchased by Henry D. Wright of Smithland, Ia. Mr. Wright published The Alcester Union until June 3, 1937, when he sold it to Milo Klima of Tyndall, S. D. Mr. Klima published the newspaper for about one year, and on July 1, 1938, it was purchased by H. H. Heath, formerly of Artesian, S. D., and at that time working for the Sioux Valley News at Canton.

Mr. Heath and his wife, assisted by a son, Ronald, published The Alcester Union until December 1, 1949, when they sold the plant to the present owners, Ronald and Harrison Heath.

State Bank of Alcester

The State Bank of Alcester had its beginning in late December of 1890 when F. E. Watkins and his associates from Hawarden, Iowa, started a private bank called the First State Bank in Alcester. This was truly a pioneer bank.

One of the compelling reasons for the establishment of this bank was to eliminate the risk involved in transporting the money overland from Hawarden to Alcester needed for the transaction of business in the small but ambitious, unincorporated town of Alcester.

The front part of the building, now occupied by "Emery's Recreation," was built expressly for this bank and business was commenced in this building before the plaster was dry. E. F. Frost had the contract for the erection of the building at a stipulated price of $750.00. The cost of the lot was $75.00.

Charles Williams, who was then Union County Treasurer, was cashier of the new institution. For three years this bank operated without any fixed capital, the owners advancing the necessary money as it was needed. On January 1, 1894, it was organized as a state bank with capital of $5,000.00. In February, 1904, the capital was increased to $15,000.00.

Arthur Melrose succeeded Charles Williams as cashier and in 1903 O. A. Abeel assumed active management of this bank and continued to act in this capacity until his death in 1916. Mr. B. W. Brunt was placed in charge after Mr. Abeel's death.

The first bank records make interesting reading. On January 1, 1891, the total loans were $438.99 and total deposits were $962.89. Overdrafts were not unknown at that early date and were listed at $88.56, A. S. Disbrow, being the offender. The six first depositors and their balances were as follows: E. F. Frost, $43.50; A. S. Green, $100.00; August Ludwig, $842.60; T. McNamara, $185.00; T. J. Mayers, $77.69; and Peters, Schmidt & Co., $74.10.

Individual deposits first reached the $5000.00 mark on March 5, 1891 and total footings passed the $10,000.00 mark on April 9, 1891.

The first loan was for $56.00 to John H. Carpenter and was guaranteed by Chas. R. Allen. W. E. Finn and A. D. Finn were the next borrowers, the amount loaned to them was $57.89. Among the other familiar names on the first page of the note book are Peter W. Keiser, A. H. Draves, Martha A. Hoard, John Finnie, John Morrisey, Frank W. Slocum, Wm. H. Dodd, A. D. Weed, E. P. Bartlett, W. J. Gallagher, and Ole Qualle.

The first time certificate was issued to W. H. Willerton for $300.00 on February 16, 1891.

The first remittance comprised two items, a pension check payable to C. W. Finn for $48.00 and a pension check payable to Wm. Gilbert for $81.00 making a total remittance of $129.00 and was sent to the Union National Bank, Chicago, Ill., on December 15, 1890. The second remittance was a gold certificate of $1,000.00 issued by the government.

The first stock draft to pass through the bank was drawn by the Weare & Allison Bank of Sioux City, Iowa, and was payable to Disbrow & Hoard. The first produce check to pass through the bank

was one issued by F. C. Page to A. E. Nelson Co., drawn on Wm. Clagg Co. of LeMars, Iowa, for $12.75 and dated October 19, 1891.

In 1919 E. F. McKellips and his father H. F. McKellips, purchased the Watkins stock holdings in this Alcester bank making it for the first time a completely home owned and home managed bank. B. W. Brunt continued with the bank until 1926.

The Nineteen Twenties were rough years and both the State Bank of Alcester and the Farmers and Merchants National Bank closed during this period. On January 15, 1927, five months after closing, the State Bank of Alcester reopened with new capital of $25,000.00 and Surplus and Undivided Profits of $3,750.00. The active bank personnel was the same as before the closing, E. F. McKellips, L. S. Eaton, D. C. Hammitt and Anna Lind.

The loyalty and support given the reorganized State Bank of Alcester by the folks in the Alcester area has during the intervening 34 years given Alcester a bank with an unusual strength of capital structure, now one-third of a million dollars, and deposits in excess of three million dollars.

This community backing placed the present State Bank of Alcester in position where it could and did repay the depositors of the old State Bank of Alcester 100 cents on a dollar for all deposits.

The first bank building was soon outgrown and a brick bank building was built and occupied in 1897. This building with many interior alterations and the addition of a basement was the bank home of the State Bank of Alcester for 59 years.

In 1955 construction was started on a new bank building. February 22nd and 23rd, 1956, were gala days when people came from far and near to participate in the occupancy of the new bank home.

This pioneer bank has proven to be an anchor institution in the progress and the development of Southeastern South Dakota.

The present directors of the bank are C. B. Asper, Einar Anderson, C. S. Swenson, Emil T. Johnson, R. D. McKellips, E. F. McKellips and Governor Archie Gubbrud.

The active officers and employees of the State Bank of Alcester are E. F. McKellips, President; R. D. McKellips, Executive Vice President; O. F. Anderson, Cashier; R. E. Johnson, Assistant Cashier; Mrs. Vivian Engebretson; Mrs. Audery Ball; Mrs. Carol Anderson; Sharon Peterson and Elaine Fickbohm.

It was not planned this way, but an interesting Centennial observation is that all of the Bank's employees are descendants of pioneers of the Southeastern South Dakota area; second, third and fourth generations are all represented.

HAZARDS OF THE TRAIL

(James A. Green, one of the earliest settlers of northern Union County, who homesteaded on the Sioux River bottom, was one of the champion spinners of yarns. Here is a sample of one of his stories, as told to Ed S. Johnson, 45 years ago.)

A few years after homesteading, Green had to make a trip to LeMars—"about the only real town anywhere around at that time." He drove a 2-wheeled cart.

"We forded the river in them days. Then after a bit of drivin', there was a kitty-corner trail right for LeMars."

About halfway to LeMars, Green came across a couple of wagons on the trail—one headed north and one headed south. There were just tracks through the grass marking the trail—no shacks, fences or anything else.

The owners of the rigs weren't in the wagons. They were rolling around on the prairie fighting. One had bitten part of the other fellow's ear off, and both were covered with blood and tobacco juice.

"They was so busy fightin'," said Green, "They never noticed me until I hollered at em." They finally quit and started telling Green their troubles.

They had met each other on the trail. At that time, the man with the lighter load was supposed to give the trail to the man with the heavier load. Neither wagon seemed to hold much. The ground on the trail was solid, and the ground around the trail was solid.

However, neither would move over, so they fell to fighting instead.

"Why don't each of you give up half the trail?" Green asked.

"One of them fellers looked me in the eye and said, 'I'll never give up a inch of trail to that ——————.'"

As his opponent had now rested a bit, they started the fight all over again—rassling, biting and cussing.

Said Green, "I clum onto my wagon and drove around the other two wagons, and headed for LeMars. Never seed those two fellers again. Most onreasonablest fellers I ever met."

Lincoln-Union Electric Co.

Lincoln-Union Electric Company, with headquarters at Alcester, S. D., is an electric distribution system which serves power to the farmers of Lincoln, Union and Turner counties. Twenty-six years ago, when the Rural Electrification Administration came into existence, very few farms in the area, now served by the cooperative had electric service. There were a few fortunate farmers who had light plants of one kind or another, but electric service, as we know it today on the farm, was practically non-existent.

Lincoln-Union traces its beginning back to 1937, two years after the passage of the rural electrification act. The first organizational meetings were held in Norway Township Hall north of Alcester.

Norway Township Hall

The original incorporators were Robert S. Wennblom, A. P. Gubbrud, Osmond Twedt, Harold Swanson and Sam K. Ulrikson. Ulrikson has been on the Board of Directors since the cooperative was organized and has been president of the Board since 1952.

The job of Lincoln-Union as originally conceived was to bring the benefits of electric power to rural people, and by so doing, to improve the standard of living and the well-being of people in its service area. It now provides an abundant supply of highest quality electric service to its member-owners at the lowest possible cost. It supplies its members with a vitally needed service which they were unable to obtain from any other source.

The organization actively promotes the maximum beneficial use of electricity by its members and provides information, guidance and assistance to them in the application and wise use of electricity.

Today this co-operative is supplying the power requirements of its 2300 members over a network of 1075 miles of electric distribution lines. It has a well-trained staff of 14 employees who operate the business and nine directors who represent the membership and formulate the policies of the organization.

In addition to the headquarters staff located at Alcester, two area crews are maintained in order to bring better service to the members. One two-man operation and maintenance crew is stationed at Lennox and another at Harrisburg. All vehicles operated by the co-operative, residences of maintenance foremen, and the office are joined together by two-way radio communications in order to expedite service to members.

The first power used was purchased from two private power companies at costs of over 13.5 mills per kilowatt-hour, and the cost to the electric user was about 8.5 cents. In 1954, after Federally generated power became available through the East River Electric Power Co-operative, a transmission co-operative, the cost to the co-operative dropped to less than 8 mills. The average cost to the farmer dropped from the early 8.5 cents to 2.54 cents per kilo-watt-hour in 1960.

Harold Swanson, one of the original incorporators served as manager until 1941 when V. T. Hanlon was elevated to the position. Hanlon continued as manager until March 1951, when he moved to Madison to become manager of East River Power Co-operative, a position he has held ever since.

J. R. Shrawder was named to succeed Hanlon and he held the position until he resigned in August, 1956.

Hilmar A. Wahl, a former Bureau of Reclamation employee, assumed the duties of Manager in September, 1956. Wahl is the present manager.

Lincoln-Union is very much interested in the development of South Dakota and of the area it serves and the different communities within this area. All employees and directors are encouraged to take an active part in community and civic affairs and projects. Lincoln-Union is proud to have been a vital part of the Alcester community for the past 24 years.

Not only has rural electrification removed the drudgery and brought city living and city ways to rural areas, it can also be credited with changing the entire outlook of rural people.

Lincoln-Union Electric Company

4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

From its modest beginning as a calf club in the fall of 1929, Alcester's annual 4-H Achievement Event has grown to be one of the largest such events in the state.

In September, 1929 the Alcester Commercial Club voted to promote a Calf Club in Alcester to interest boys and girls in better stock and feeding methods. Sixteen high grade beef calves were given away in the next few weeks, the idea being that the winners would feed the calves for about a year and enter them in a Baby Beef Show sponsored by the Alcester Commercial Club. Anyone who did not win a calf was eligible to enter one of his or her own in the show.

Winners of the original 16 calves were R. C. Miller, Henry E. Johnson, Oliver Tunell, Mrs. Bernt Sundvold, Oliver Edson, Leonard Lundberg, Clifton Jenkins, V. H. Larson, Clarence Larson, Mitch St. Pierre, Andrew Eggen, Peter Nelson, Roger Stenstrom, Will Albers, Henry Pien and Albert Abraham.

The first Calf Show was held on August 27, 1930, with 28 baby beeves entered in the competition. Frank Cone of Sioux City was the judge and the Grand Championship prize of $50 was awarded to Donald Anderson. First prize for the steers was awarded to Harold Albers, second to Ivan Ericson, third to Clayton Gubbrud and fourth to Helmer Johnson. Oliver Tunell received the first prize for the best bull. First prize for the heifers was awarded to Andrew Eggen and second prize to Lloyd St. Pierre.

For entertainment at this first event, the band rendered a concert and H. H. Epperson of Sioux City delivered an address after which everyone went to the ball park to watch the Spink-Alcester ball game.

The next day 25 of the boys from Alcester sold their club calves at the Sioux City Stock Yards.

Much of the credit for the success of this first Calf Show must be given to the members of the first committee—Eric Beck, E. F. McKellips and L. S. Eaton—who put forth much effort and enthusiasm to creat interest in the project. They served on this committee for a number of years. One of the ardent supporters of the Calf Club was Lars Blum, although he was not a member of the committee.

Since the first Calf Show was such a success, the Alcester Commercial Club decided to make it an annual event, and the following year (1931) saw 38 entries in the show. Walter Ericson was awarded the Grand Championship that year. The event was held in the Stakke-Hegness Ford garage, and considerable excitement was caused when a black steer, entered by Lloyd St. Pierre, became crazed. Entertainment included a speech by the secretary of the Sioux City Livestock Exchange, a band concert and a ball game.

Only 30 calves were entered in the show in 1932, a year which saw two girls—Lucille Swanson and Florinda Jernberg—take first and second place honors. For the first time, a showmanship award was given, and that went to Wm. Kratochvil.

The entry list went down to only 15 calves in 1935, due to a feed shortage, and in 1937 the event became the Alcester Calf Club and Achievement Event. That was the first year for demonstrations and Home Economics projects.

From then on, the event was known as the Alcester 4-H Achievement Days and continued to grow, except for a short time during the war years. Following the war, interest in the event increased, and the event has grown into three full days of judging, exhibits, entertainment, etc. Entries now include baby beeves, hogs, sheep, dairy, poultry, Home Ec. demonstrations, dress revue, handicraft and others. Last year there were 150 cattle, 70 hogs and many other entries at the Achievement Event and this year's entries will no doubt be as great.

The first Calf Show was held in a tent on Main Street. Later, other facilities, including the school grounds, the Ford garage and other buildings were used for the show. In recent years 4-H buildings have been constructed at the grounds just south of the railroad tracks in Alcester. There are four buildings on the site, and even these will not handle the record number of entries. It is necessary to use the REA building, the Bandshell and the Community building for various activities in conjunction with the event.

The annual Achievement Event has been a big 4-H community builder and creates a large amount of enthusiasm from grown-ups as well as the 4-H members. Last year's entertainment at the ball park drew an estimated 3500 people.

The August, 1950, issue of the National 4-H News devoted more than two pages to a writeup and pictures of the Alcester 4-H Achievement Event. In commenting on the event, the editor says, "Year after year for a score this has been going on and it has created a community interest no other enterprise could hope to, because it concerns everyone from the smallest youngster to the grandfathers." . . "These exhibitions of youth achievement have gone far to make the trade territory of Alcester, which spreads pretty far over Union county, one of the best farming regions in South Dakota."

HISTORY OF NORA, S. D.

About the first settler in the Nora community was Erick Ronning, he coming from Norway in 1871, settling first in Vermillion then homesteading near Nora. Other Norwegian settlers soon came from Michigan and Wisconsin. Andrew Asbjeld gave the village its name, calling it Nora, this an abbreviation of Norway.

The first homes in the community were dugouts, some with dirt floors. Supplies and fuel were freighted from Vermillion, Elk Point and even Sioux City, mostly by ox team—with these the men must walk, this through all sorts of weather and over poor trails.

In 1903 the Steinholt store was connected with Alsen by telephone. Later Alcester and Hawarden were also so connected.

In 1883 a postoffice was established on the Ronan place, called Emmett. This postoffice after further moves was established near Emmett Catholic Church, the first postmaster there being Josephine Patterson.

In 1891 the first postoffice called Nora was established on the Ronning farm, E. A. Ronning being the first postmaster, Ole Ronning his son at first bringing the mail from Emmett. Later there were star routes. In 1901 rural free delivery was established, John Hubbard being the first carrier.

School was first held on the John Ronning farm, then the building was moved to Andrew Sveggens, then again moved just northeast of the present location of Nora School. In 1901 this building was moved to Nora and it became the blacksmith shop of Nels Isaacson. Later John Buum tore down the building.

That same year, 1901, a school building was erected on the site of the present Nora School; in 1920 another room was added to this building.

I. M. Asbjeld had a garage in Nora in 1910, repairing and selling cars. His first car sale was to Peter Quall—a Buick. This car Pete rebuilt to make it a racer, the boys having many thrills with it.

Chris Steinholt had the first store in Nora, on the site of the present store building. Later, Ronning Bros. had a store right south of their farm home. Knute Ofstad bought the Steinholt store, later selling to Wells and Oden in 1910. This building burned down and Wells and Oden then bought the Ronning Store. After the death of Mr. Oden, who was a long time merchant in Nora, the business changed hands many times, closing in 1960 perhaps permanently.

The first building in Nora was perhaps a milkhouse moved onto the townsite by I. P. Asbjeld.

In 1900 the Nora Creamery became a reality—this on the Ronning farm, thus being one of the pioneering creameries in the state. George Miller was the first buttermaker; in 1902 he received a gold medal at the state convention of buttermakers. Ole Lykken, Sr., was the president of the corporation; Iver Oie, the secretary. Cream was hauled in by the farmers, the biggest producer at first being Ole Ofstad. Business was good and about twenty tubs of butter were hauled to Alcester every week to be shipped to New York. Machinery was operated by steam, and ice was cut on the Brule Creek and stored in an ice house. In 1930 the creamery was moved into the village of Nora, directly across from the store.

In 1942 the creamery burned to the ground. It was not rebuilt in Nora; instead a building was procured in Alcester and there it continued to do business as "The Nora Creamery." In 1961 the business was sold to the Sioux Valley Milk Association—but still it is the Nora Creamery.

Not much is left of the village of Nora. Yet, the community as a farming community still is thriving. The residents, mostly of Norwegian ancestry, remember with gratitude their forefathers who through the years strove so hard to build a good community for themselves and posterity.

Nora Co-operative Creamery Co.

The Nora Cooperative Creamery Co. was organized in 1900 at Nora. The first full year of operation was 1901 when 1,800,000 pounds of milk was received, containing 69,000 pounds of butterfat, which made about 85,000 pounds of butter.

The plant continued to operate there, providing a convenient market for the milk produced in that surrounding area, until 1945 when the building burned to the ground.

A suitable building was available in Alcester at that time and the board of directors decided to move the plant to town. The Creamery operated in that building until the summer of 1960, when the former Treiber garage building was purchased and the equipment was moved to the new location after considerable remodeling had been done. Open house was held at the new quarters on November 19.

On February 17, 1961, the board of directors of the Nora Cooperative Creamery Co. voted by resolution to sell the assets and liabilities of the firm to the Sioux Valley Cooperative Milk Producers' Association of Sioux Falls, the new owners taking possession March 1, 1961.

The local plant employs ten people. The present manager is Marvin Heitkamp.

History of Alcester Post Office

The first mail delivered in the Alcester community came by a stage driven by a man named Shurtiff. The route originated at Glenwood in Clay county, with stops at Paris, now Beresford, Gothland and a store located on the Claude Dean place, then to Linden and finally Calliope. The return trip was made the next day.

The mail-drop office for the Alcester community was located in section 33 of Virginia township and Mr. Jeremiah R. Thornton served as postmaster from Dec. 10, 1873, to 1878. The site of the office was then moved to section 11 and covered by a route running from Portlandville, now Akron, to Sioux Falls. Deliveries were made six times a week by M. V. Nichols.

From the office in Virginia township, mail for the Alcester community was picked up by Charles and Jack Page, who made the trip on horseback.

The first postoffice in Alcester was established Oct. 17, 1883. Charles R. Winn was the first postmaster and the office was a depot at the Chicago & Northwestern track. Alcester was now on a route from Richland to Gothland and delivery was made four times a week by Mr. McCall, a subcontractor of Mr. Rich of Richland.

The first rural delivery service out of Alcester began Oct. 1, 1901. Mr. John Hubbard was the first carrier and he continued until March 31, 1920.

Since its establishment, the postoffice has been located in the following locations. A building owned by Fred Meyers located south of the present pool hall. Then to the present site of the Corner Cafe. Next, the location of the present Masonic Hall. Then the building recently vacated by the Nora Creamery, from there to the old Farmer's and Merchant's bank building and finally its present location in the new building which was dedicated Oct. 14, 1959.

In order of appointment the following Postmasters have served the Alcester community. Charles R. Winn, Sherman T. Rose, Mrs. C. J. Rose, William T. Wilson, Richard Walrath, Charles W. Finn, Thomas J. Mayers, John Morrissey, Charlotte M. Catlin, Orlin A. Abeel, Horace M. Green, Fayette A. Nutter, Marvin H. Westin.

Clerks serving in the postoffice are as follows. Mrs. Ophelia Oaks, Mrs. Faye Nutter, Mrs. Rachel Vallin Buum, Evelyn Numsen Arne, Jeanette Kiel, Gladys Anderson, Carrie Westling, Wesley Duiker, Robert Hammerstrom, Margaret Pearson, Robert Berg and Marvin Westin.

Mrs. Ophelia Oaks has the longest record of service, having served from Jan. 1, 1918, to Dec. 31, 1952.

Rural Routes and carriers:

Route No. 1, established Oct. 1, 1901—John G. Hubbard, Oscar R. Eckman, Millard C. Smith, Fred Millard.

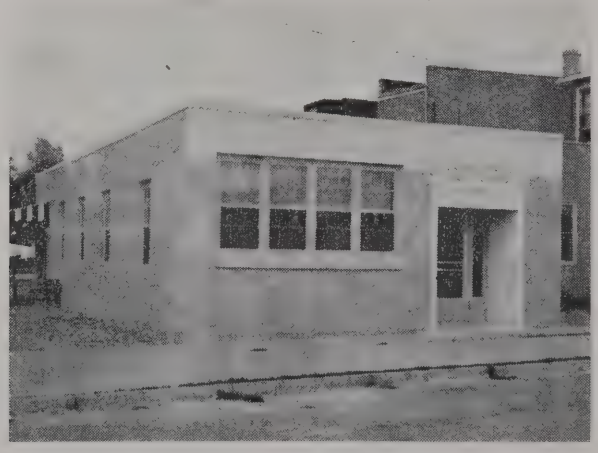
Route No 2, established Feb. 1, 1906—Albert W. Swan, Charles Bushnell, Olvin R. Flannery, Elmer L. Canaday, Charles G. Hammitt, David E. Westin.

Route No. 3, established Feb. 1, 1906—Johnnie R. Johannson, George Finch, Albert H. Draves, Peter J. Peterson, Elmer L. Canaday, re-assigned. Charles G. Hammitt, re-assigned. Urbain S. Perreault, re-assigned. David R. Lundberg, Fred Millard, Sherman C. Pierson, Harold A. Lingert.

Route No. 4, established Feb. 1, 1906—Albert H. Draves, Peter J. Peterson, Olin R. Flannery, Urban S. Perreault, Sherman C. Pierson. Route No. 4 was discontinued June 30, 1935, consolidating the service to the present three routes.

The temporary carriers have been eliminated from this listing because of space limitations, though their service is no less appreciated because of that fact.

The mail service has played an important and vital part in the growth of our civilization and we can be eternally grateful to the men and women who pioneered and developed this service we take so much for granted today.



New Post Office

Centennial Greetings

31 YEARS GROWING WITH ALCESTER AND SOUTH DAKOTA

Serving Its Owners The Co-operative Way

LESTER DAY, Manager
LEE TRUDEAU, Tank Wagon Salesman
BRUCE JENSEN, Tank Wagon Salesman
MELVIN RUSTIN, Station Attendant
MYRTLE DAY, Bookkeeper

Farmers Union Co-op Association

TANK WAGON SERVICE – FARM NECESSITIES

WHEELER-ANDERSON COMPANY is one of the oldest, continuous businesses in Alcester. The clothing store began operation in the building which now houses Trandahl's Cafe, with Mr. Lindgren as manager. The firm was owned by a Hawarden man until Mr. Lindgren bought the business in the early 1890's. It became known as G. A. Lindgren Clothing.

In 1894, William Belkey erected a building consisting of two establishments on the first floor and an opera house on the second floor. At the time it was erected it was one of the largest business buildings in the town. Mr. Lindgren moved his clothing business into the lower west part of the building where it still is at the present time.

In 1917, Mr. Lindgren, wishing to continue in another field, sold two-thirds interest of his clothing business to Bert Wheeler and Einar Anderson. Mr. Wheeler had been clerking in Morrisey's, a general store, and Mr. Anderson was working in the Cox Hardware Store. On March 1st, 1917, the new partners took over the business and it became known as Wheeler-Anderson and Company. In July, 1932, Mr. Lindgren sold his remaining interest to Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Anderson.

The concern started with men's and boys' clothing but as the town grew and the need developed, merchandise was increased to include women's and children's clothing, shoes, and household items.

In 1959, after 42 years of partnership, Mr. Wheeler sold his interest in the business to Charles Sundstrom. Mr. Wheeler continues to work in the store on a part-time basis.

The present partnership of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Sundstrom will continue to serve you with quality merchandise as has been the policy through the past 70 years.

Wheeler-Anderson Company

LANTAFF BEVERAGE CO.

STORZ BEER

Phone - - 46

205 NO. 2ND ST.

Beresford, S. Dak.

Hawarden Cleaners

Congratulations To

ALCESTER

On Their

Centennial Celebration

"FUSSY CLEANING FOR FUSSY PEOPLE"

GEORGE BODE

LaVonne's Beauty Shop

- **Hair Styling**
- **Shaping**
- **Permanents**
- **Tinting**
- **Scalp Treatments**

MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
THURSDAY NIGHTS ONLY

DIAL - - 4391

ALCESTER, S. DAK.

NILSON
FUNERAL HOME

— Since 1897 —

OUR AIM HAS BEEN TO SERVE IN THE CHRISTIAN WAY, WITH REVERENCE, DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

— LADY ASSISTANT —

AMBULANCE SERVICE

DIAL ☞ 5211

ALCESTER, S. DAK.

IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO!

Our company and its employees proudly serve Alcester with natural gas and electricity. Many of our customers remember that these two household servants—gas and electricity—have been accepted within their own lifetimes. They remember sweltering over an old-fashioned cook stove, lugging coal and wood to the heating stove, hauling out ashes, and scrubbing clothes with a knuckle-breaking washboard.

Today, gas heats our homes automatically. It cooks our food, dries clothes, and heats water. Electricity lights our way, keeps food fresh and does a hundred and one chores around the house and farm.

Iowa Public Service is more than a gas and electric company. We are a part of the community of Alcester. And we're especially happy to join in saluting you on this colorful centennial.

Iowa Public Service Company

MARKET YOUR
LIVESTOCK WISELY

PRODUCERS
SIOUX CITY
STOCKYARDS

The Alcester Union

ADVERTISING AND COMMERCIAL
PRINTING

Serving the Alcester Community Since 1889

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
for
UNION COUNTY
CITY OF ALCESTER
ALCESTER INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

H. H. HEATH, Editor
R. H. HEATH, Publisher

ALCESTER LIONS CLUB

Always Striving for Community Betterment

The Largest Service Club In The World

Best Wishes For A Most Successful CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE AND CELEBRATION

HORSE RACING

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 17

POST TIME 2:00 P.M.

Park Jefferson

Under New Ownership

5 MILES NORTH OF SIOUX CITY ON HWY. 77

– EVERY RACE FILM PATROLLED –

RACING EVERY FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY

DOG RACING

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 9

POST TIME 7:50 P.M.

NEW SODRAC Park

North Sioux City

– NIGHTLY EXCEPT SUNDAY –

Gambles Store

Sales and Service

On

FRIGIDAIRE AND ZENITH

APPLIANCES

Oliver Swenson – Phone 3491

HAWARDEN SALES BARN

SALES EVERY SATURDAY

Mel Sundstrom Les Gubbrud

Paul's Produce

Alcester, S. Dak.

WAYNE FEEDS

SUMMERS FERTILIZER

Buyers of POULTRY and EGGS

EMERY'S PLACE

Compliments To

The Alcester

Centennial Celebration

COMPLIMENTS of FENN'S BROS., INC.

Boetell Electric

ALCESTER, S. DAK.

Green Colonial Furnaces

Norge Appliances

Wiring – Well Work

Chris J. Boetell — Phone - - 6891

CORNER CAFE

STOP IN FOR A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE

MYRNA PARSONS

Phone - - 4201

WESTIN RADIO & TELEVISION

RCA and MOTOROLA

Sales and Service

Phone - - 4271

Centennial Celebration Days . . .

"People" Will No Doubt
POUR Into Alcester!

Every Day . . .

"New Money" POURS Into South Dakota
From Homestake Operations!

IN 1960, IT WAS OVER $38,000 PER DAY — ALMOST 14 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE YEAR! WHAT WAS THIS "NEW MONEY?" WELL, IT WAS WAGES AND DIVIDENDS, SUPPLIES AND SERVICES, AND TAXES PAID TO **SOUTH DAKOTA** PERSONS, BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTS.

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WE, TOO, ARE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO SOUTH DAKOTA'S DAY-BY-DAY ECONOMIC LIFE!

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THERE HAS BEEN NO ASSESSMENT FOR OVER 40 YEARS!

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And

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FROM

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Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association

UNION COUNTY, S. D.

FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF UNION COUNTY offers congratulations to the community of Alcester on the celebration of its Centennial Anniversary.

This association is one of the pioneer institutions of this county, having offered rural fire insurance to the farmers of Union County since its organization in 1888. Pioneers who incorporated the company were C. J. Nilson, P. A. Ring, A. Walin, C. A. Ericson, A. L. Johnson, and O. E. Lawson. Since that beginning we have grown till we now insure the major portion of the farm buildings and personal property in the county in the amount of nearly $20,000,000.00.

PRESENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ARE:

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EDGAR RONNING — ALCESTER, S. D.
LESLIE J. BERGDALE — HAWARDEN, IOWA

THE COMMUNITY BAND

The Alcester Community Band was organized during the winter of 1921. D. C. Hammitt was elected director. Charter members included Norman Slocum, Clarence Carlson, Harry Day, George Keiser, David Lundeen, Charles Hammitt, Walter Keiser, Charley Tunell, Horace Slocum, Joel Olson, Forrest Erickson, and Henry Lind. Some others joined shortly to make a band of about 20 members. Band rehearsals were set for each Tuesday night, and at first each member was assessed 50c per month so as to have some funds for buying necessary equipment and music.

The first public appearance was on Memorial Day, 1921. Concerts were given every Saturday evening from then until September 1. This practice has continued through the years. The band also participated at many community affairs. Most of the money received for the "dates" was used for uniforms etc., as the musicians donated their time and talent. These first Saturday night concerts were given in the Main Street square, and a "flatbed" was used until a band stand was built there. The present band shell was built in 1941. Dedicatorial services were held on September 12. Harry M. Lee was the master of ceremonies. Speakers included Barrett R. Lowe and Paul Meyer from Sioux Falls and Oscar G. Beck of Alcester. Outstanding soloists and the Municipal Band from Sioux Falls were also on the program.

Winter concerts were given by the band in the local opera house. An excerpt from an article written about their first show, which was given in 1922, will illustrate the popularity of the band. Quote: "In the case of our band we don't have to fabricate. The show was really good. We were pleasingly surprised and are justly proud of the boys. We don't want to turn their heads with flattery, but we do want them to know that their faithful training and skillful presentation of the musicale is sincerely appreciated."

The Alcester Community Band gained statewide and even national recognition. They appeared at the Tri-State Fair in Sioux City, at the Corn Palace celebration at Mitchell, at the State Fair at Huron, and at the Belle Fourche Round-up in 1926 and 1927. In 1927, the band had President and Mrs. Coolidge in the audience. Another important appearance was at the World's Fair in 1933 and again in 1934 when they were the official band from the state of South Dakota.

Mr. Hammitt led the band until 1948 when he moved away. Harry Day, a charter member of the band became its director. Mr. Day has been with the band continuously since 1921. He is the only charter member left with the band, although there are others who have played for many years. Mr. Day has never missed a concert or an engagement in all these forty years. Much credit for the long life of this organization is due to the citizens and business men of Alcester. For many years the taxpayers of Alcester have been assessed a mill levy to help finance the band and its projects.

PICTURES OF THE NINETIES

THE MAIN DRAG IN 1895. Art Disbrow's office blocks street to south — roof shown. This picture looking north from a little south of Lincoln Union building of today. When one of those teams tied to the hitching posts broke loose — then there was excitement in the old burg!

NORTHWESTERN HOTEL (Wheeler Hotel), built in 1890. Sorry, we can't tell you who is who. Northwest of the Hotel, showing plainly in picture, is the old livery barn which was operated for a very long time by Chas. Loutzenheizer.

THE SCHETZEL BANK IN 1892. Left to right: Will Schetzel, Henry Schetzel, and John Taylor. This building is the northwestern portion of the present building occupied by the H & N Store.

ALCESTER STATE BANK. Chas. Frost in big overcoat. Cashier presumably Arthur Melrose. Man outside cashier's window, unknown.

WHEN SCHOOLING WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY! A very pretty teacher and studious kids. Nettie Murphy, teacher — you tell us who were the kids. This is in the old building on ground now occupied by Lottie Tunell residence. Picture about 1894.

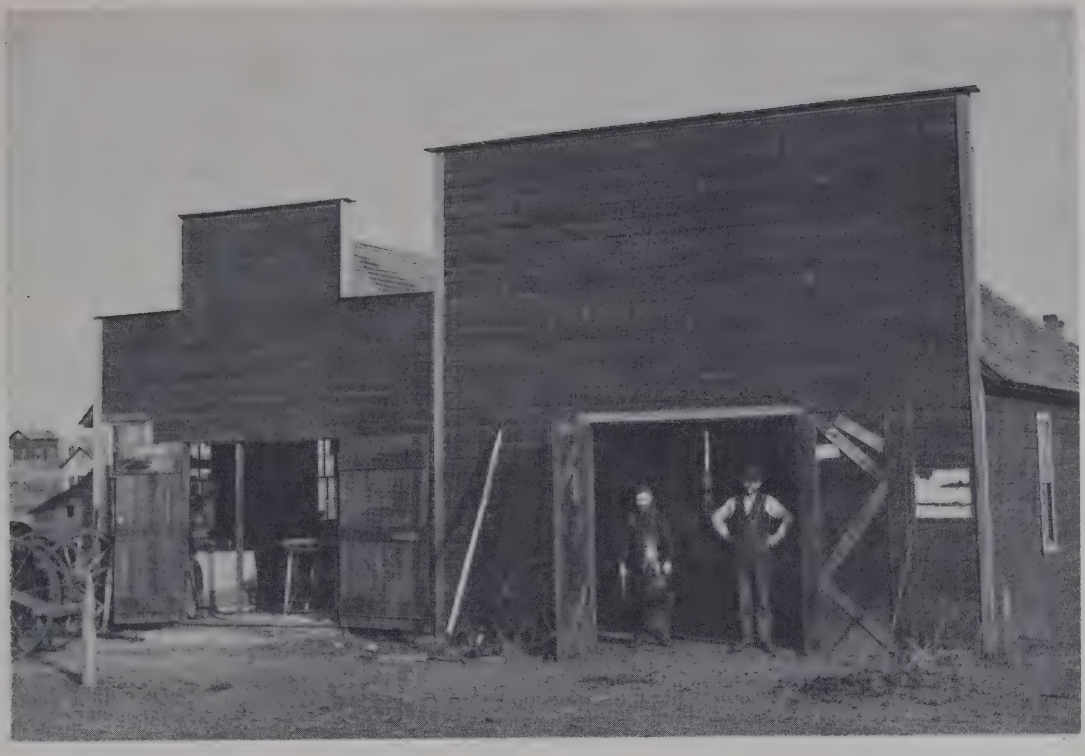
THE UNION BAND. Picture taken March 25, 1892. Back row, left to right: Pete Johnson (drum), Peter Erickson, Ole Pearson, Bandleader Dick Walrath, Chas. Peterson, Frank Chesley, Emil Pearson, John Peterson. **Front row,** left to right: August Pearson, Andrew Anderson, Oscar Peterson, C. W. Peterson, Emil Erickson, and Charlie Tunell.

PETERS, SCHMITZ & ROSS GENERAL MERCHANDISE. Left to right: Elwood Brunskell, Will Schmitz, Otto Ross. This evidently was in the Brastad building.

John Edson in front of furniture store operated by Mr. Edson and Eric Nilson. This building has been razed.

ANDERBERG STORE. Left to right: Hilda Anderberg, Albert Anderberg. This store in Paul Ericksen building of today.

DRUG STORE in old Lewis Drug building. Left to right: Dr. Price, Charles H. Hammer. It seems this building was occupied by drug stores from early days until R. Hughes bought it a short time ago.



NELS WIBERG BLACKSMITH SHOP. Which is Nels — which the helper? This shop on ground now occupied by city auditorium.

A very early steam-powered outfit threshing at Dodds.

Take a look at the old Depot; once the busiest place in town, now deserted.

When horses powered the threshing machine. This was early, northwest of town — you tell us where.

WHEN ELBOW GREASE POWERED THE RAILROAD HANDCAR. Left to right: unknown, Ole Knutson, Nils Anderson was foreman, unknown, Martin Anderson, John E. Johnson, Mat Thompson, unknown. This is in the Nineties.

THE OLD SECTION HOUSE, three miles east of Alcester. Left to right, taking picture as a whole — not in rows: Nils Mikkelson, Albert Anderson, Carl Anderson, Mike Anderson, Math Thompson, Tom Berntson, lady in white unknown, Martin Anderson, a man with mustache unknown, Mrs. Nils Anderson, Nils Anderson holding Myrtle, Nellie Anderson, lady in white unknown, Mary Anderson, Ingwald Anderson, (Basta Mor) grandmother, Johnnie Anderson.

THE FRED SLOCUM BARBER SHOP. Fred being Alcester's first barber. Fred to extreme left, next possibly Milton Mackey — others not known. Note cabinet with individual shaving mugs — more shaving mugs than your modern barber has ever seen.

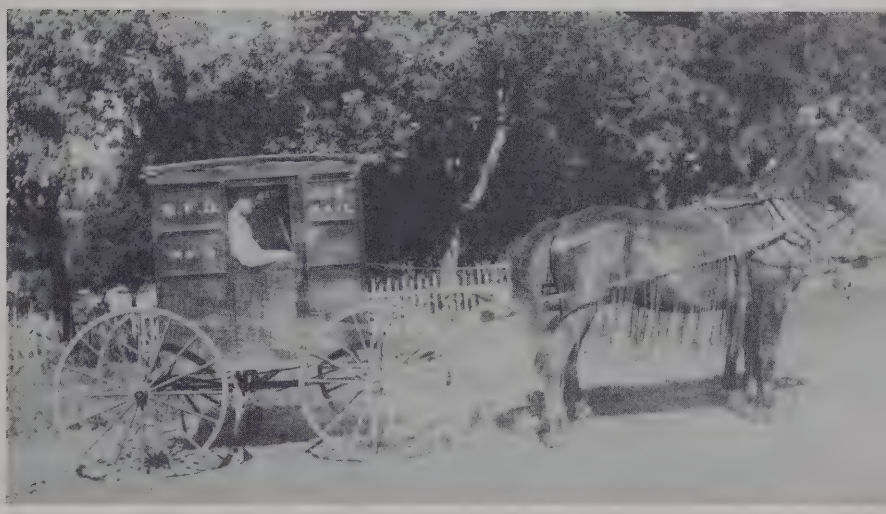
EARLY 1900

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK about 1910. Standing—A. O. Ofstad, president. At desk — J. A. Swenson, cashier. Ralph Johnson, bank clerk at typewriter.

H. H. NUMSEN GENERAL STORE. Who are the four kids? Right to left: H. H. Numsen (back of counter), Emil Anderson, and we believe Willa Hone (Pickering), unknown, unknown — possibly Tony Jenkins. About 1909.

JOHN MORRISEY STORE. This is now H. & N. building about 1908. Left to right: Mathilda Anderson (Mrs. Axel Johnson), thin, anemic-looking fellow is Bert Wheeler, John Morrisey, Sevander Swenson, Harry Dodd.

John Morrisey takes his wife and Mathilda Anderson (Mrs. Axel Johnson) for a spin in his 1908 Buick. Honk, honk, out of the way — give us room!



John Peterson delivers mail to the patrons of his route.

THE OLD LIVERY BARN. This barn used from early days — picture taken in 1910. John Dahlin in new Reo two-cylinder car — perhaps the first car used for hire in Alcester. Left to right: John Dahlin, in car; Ed. S. Johnson, supporting light post; Frank Staberg, at door; Martin Johnson (?), holding horses.

ALCESTER OF YESTERDAY; WHAT OF TOMORROW?

On the preceding pages of this anniversary booklet you have seen many pictures and portraits —some of these even pertaining to the Dakota Territorial period. The cover page shows a map of Dakota Territory, this map printed about 1885 by Rand McNalley & Company.

Then there are pictures of Alcester as it was in the 1890's. Sure, some of those business establishments look about as outmoded and antiquated as do the threshing machines of that period which have also been portrayed. Yet that was the way business was transacted then—in Alcester and elsewhere. Then you are given a glimpse through pictures of a little later period, perhaps as late as 1915 and in a few cases, later.

Then historical portrayal ceases and we come to present day Alcester. Then you will see a couple of street scenes of today, pictures of some of our newer homes, newer commercial buildings, new public service buildings such as the auditorium, postoffice, churches, etc.

"All very interesting," you say. "Yes, perhaps you have proven your point, Alcester undoubtedly has progressed, the pictures show this, but what about the future—will there be further progress in the future?"

Yes, indeed, everything points to the fact that there is and will be progress and that of the sort that accelerates as time goes on. Let's show you a few instances.

A short time ago the Park Place acreage east of the town proper became an integral part of the town; that increased the population about 100.

This Park Place acreage was platted many years ago. Winding streets were established and along them trees were planted, these now being large shade trees, most of them American Elm as beautiful as trees can be. Over the years many homes have been built in this acreage.

The lack of sewer facilities, lack of street maintenance, the fact that the acreage was not in the Alcester Independent School System, kept many from buying a lot and building in the beautiful project. Now this addition is a part of the city and the Independent School District.

The northern part of Park Place addition is, and has been for some time, the City Park—a lovelier, more shady, more inviting park you will drive miles and miles to find. This year to make the park more attractive still, a swimming pool has been completed.

Where could anyone wishing to build a home find a more inviting place to build than in beautiful Park Place addition to Alcester?

Then quite recently there has been positive action taken, largely due to the initiative of some of the young, progressive business men of the city, which assures that a new nursing home for elderly folks needing such a home will shortly be built.

Also, there will be built a retirement home for elderly, able-bodied folks who wish a fine home in their old age without the worry, drudgery and cost of upkeep of a privately owned home. Pictures, or at least the artist's conception of these two projects, you will see in other parts of this book.

This retirement home is to be built from a loan of $450,000 obtained from the Housing Administration at Washington. This project is to house 76 elderly folks. This, while built practically in conjunction with the Nursing Home, is a separate project.

These two projects are to be built east of the large new Peace Lutheran Church overlooking the city. Hard it would be for anyone to pick a finer site—high enough so the eye can sweep over a considerable distance, to the east and south the open countryside, to the north the beautiful grove of trees planted and cared for by the late Dr. Andrew Hyden, to the west the City of Alcester.

Another project which will assume definite shape in the near future is a new building—or perhaps better said, plant—to be built by the Lincoln Union Electric Co. This will house the entire activity of the company and it will be built in, or perhaps in the outskirts, of Alcester.

The decision on this has been made lately so few details are available. It is said there will also be a new home built for the manager of the cooperative. Lacking details it is still safe to say that this will make another big addition to the town of Alcester.

Yes, Alcester did perhaps develop from a crude beginning. So did other towns in the west, yes, even the City of Chicago—if you don't believe this, take a look at the pictures of the City before the big fire.

Over the years Alcester has been a fine, homey, little town. Seemingly the residents have believed and lived by the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," rather than by its counterfeit, "Do others before they do you." Church and religion have always played a tremendous role in the lives of the people of Alcester. Let's hope this will always be true in the years ahead.

Perhaps Alcester will never become the biggest town. We who live here and love the town naturally hope for more growth and believe it will come, yet should the town never become the biggest it can and we believe will still be THE BEST TOWN!

ALCESTER TODAY

THE CITY AUDITORIUM

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeRemer

The home of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. McKellips

View to southeast from Auditorium corner.

STREET VIEW

Left side — State Bank of Alcester, office of Dr. Shoraga, City Auditorium. Right side — Corner Cafe, Moris Store building, Post Office, Beck Law Office. Five of these buildings have been erected quite recently.

Left — Office of Attorney O. C. Beck.
Right — Post Office, Marvin Westin, Postmaster.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Under construction, almost completed. Some distance back of this building the proposed Nursing and Retirement Homes will be built.

NATHANAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Building completed and in use; landscaping still to be done.

The home of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Shoraga in Park Place Addition. To the left is construction of the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger McKellips.

Home of Mayor and Mrs. Fred Hanson

The new Morningside Retirement Center will provide complete retirement facilities with the famous hospitality and friendliness that has characterized South Dakota in general and Alcester in particular for this past decade.

— The Center Will Be A Place In Which To Live —

Morningside Retirement Center

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For Prompt Service — Use Our Cart and Basket System

FRESH FRUITS — FRESH VEGETABLES

— SAY A GOOD WORD FOR ALCESTER —

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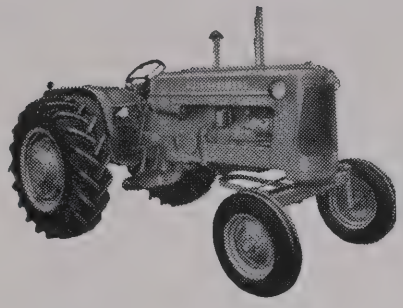
Gustafson and Anderson Garage



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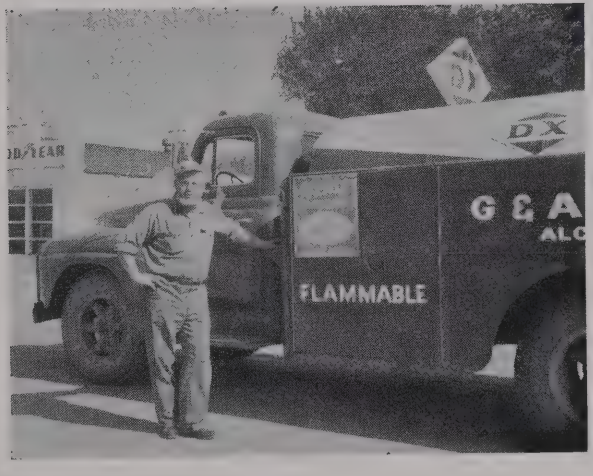

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FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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City of Alcester

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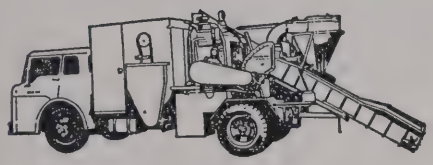

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S. D.

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ALBERT STREETER
— 1ST DISTRICT COMMISSIONER —

MABEL E. PETERSON
— TREASURER —

ELMER QUAM
— 2ND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER —

BOB COLLINGWOOD
— AUDITOR —

EARL HEIMAN
— 3RD DISTRICT COMMISSIONER —

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- **BREAKFASTS**
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PIONEER BIOGRAPHIES

Adolph Anderson Family

Adolph Anderson was born in Hackva Socken, Orebro, Lan Sweden, May 12, 1864. Marie Larson was born June 14, 1862, also in Orebro Lan Sweden. On Nov. 15, 1887 they were united in marriage.

In Sweden Adolph was engaged in the shoe manufacturing trade. On April 9, 1893, he sailed for America alone, leaving his wife and two children, Rudena and Herbert, who came in August of that same year. The family settled in the Big Springs community, living there three years.

In the spring of 1897 the family moved to Alcester. On June 2, 1897, Adolph began working for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad until his retirement in 1932, the most of this time being section foreman. All of this time was spent in Alcester with the exception of three years during which time the family resided in Canistota.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith while in Sweden—later becoming members of Nathanael Lutheran Church. On Nov. 15, 1948, they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Adolph passed away on June 30, 1949, and Marie on Dec. 10, 1954. A daughter, Judith, passed away April 19, 1961.

Descendents are: Mrs. Rudena Lundeen, Huron; Herbert Anderson, Sr., Hawarden, Iowa; Mrs. Tillie Mueller, Alcester; nine grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

Frans Anderson

Frans Anderson, his wife and two daughters came from Sweden in 1880 and settled in the Big Springs Community. They occupied their homestead until their death. To this couple were born seven children, and they endured all the hardship of pioneer life but stubbornly battled the elements to plow their soil and raise their crops and improve the homestead.

Mrs. Anderson died in 1901, and Mr Anderson continued to live on the farm until his death at the age of 89 years.

Two of the children survive—Charley Anderson of Centerville and one daughter, Jennie Cox, of Havre, Mont.

Lars Andres Anderson

Lars Andres Anderson, son of Lars and Karin Anderson, was born in Mora Sweden, July 18, 1839. He came to Omaha, Nebr., before 1865 as he took out his first citizenship papers in September of that year. He was a mason and carpenter by trade and assisted in building the first post office in Omaha. He was present at the driving of the Golden spike near Ogden, Utah, at the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

On June 27, 1868, he married Mary Matthewson at Omaha. Some time later they took a homestead three miles south east of Alcester. Their first home was a sod house, then they built the frame house which is still in liveable condition.

Mathias Anderson

In 1864 they received the patent deed for their land signed by President Grant. In 1874 the taxes for this quarter section of land amounted to $6.72. Mr. Anderson's mother came and lived with them until her death. Mr. Anderson worked at Omaha and other places during this time and his wife spent much time alone. She often walked to Richland to get mail.

In 1907 they retired from the farm to a place one half mile south of Alcester where they lived until their death. Mr. Anderson died in 1916.

They had three sons, Charles, Andrew, and Alfred, and three daughters, Anna, Caroline and Mary. At the present time the homestead is occupied by a grandson, Ted Thompson.

Lars Matthias Anderson, brother of Lars Andres, took the homestead to the south of Lars Andres. He was never married and after his death the farm was rented as an estate and later sold to Norman Hagen who now occupies it.

Lars Ole Anderson, a third brother, took a claim to the north of his brother Andres. He died in 1904 and his two sons, Andrew N. and Ole S., took over their fathers farm, where they lived until they died. It is now owned by Andrew's children.

Nils Anderson

The six room section house which housed the Nils Anderson family, many immigrants and occasionally an extra family, was in the early days a landmark—located three miles east of Alcester, very near the railroad. Rather a high structure it was, the boards running vertical, always painted a dark red.

Very close to the front door stood a very large cottonwood tree and south of the house, near the "cook shanty" grew a plum thicket, this giving a very sweet fragrance in the spring of the year.

Not many flowers were in evidence in those early days, but usually a geranium or two flowered in the parlor, blending with the "pull down" hanging kerosene lamp with its flowery shade.

Nils and Martha Anderson and baby daughter, Mary, with Martha's mother, Grandma Monsen, immigrated from Norway in 1875, coming to Norman, Iowa. They resided there seven years in which time Martin and three daughters were born. The three daughters passed away in a diphtheria epidemic while very young in 1882.

In 1883 the Andersons moved to Hawarden where a second son, Mike, was born. Then in 1884 the railroad built the section house east of Alcester and the Andersons moved into this. Nils then became the first section foreman maintaining the railroad between Hawarden and Alcester.

Life in the Anderson home was quite methodical—this necessary when it housed so many. There were always "Newcomers" arriving from Scandinavia to work on the railroad—then in eleven years seven children were born to the Andersons—here "Baste Mor" (Grandmother) Monsen's help was much appreciated.

These children, born in Dakota, were—Albert, Carl, Emil, Nellie, John, Ingwald, and Myrtle—this making thirteen children in the family. Of these but three survive—Nellie Penning of Bloomer, Wisc.. and Carl and Emil of Hawarden.

Related incidents have been many, the big blizzard of 1888 when several of the Anderson older children with all pupils of the Miller school spent the night in the schoolhouse, the next morning trudging home through the many deep drifts, relieving the worries of many parents, no lives lost from the Miller school.

Mary often told of the many loaves of bread that they baked every day to fill the lunch pails and of the cookies baked by her mother—not the bite size of today, perhaps rather nearer the size of the old fashioned saucer.

In 1899 Mary and John E. Johnson were married. The wedding was at John's home—the Peter Johnson farm east of the section house. Much preparation was made for the wedding especially in regard to food—a big supper served to the many neighbors and friends who attended.

Mr. Anderson made two visitation trips to Norway after the turn of the century, Mrs. Anderson accompanying him on one of the trips.

Tragedy came to the section house in 1910 when word was received that the son Mike, brakeman on the Yankton freight train had been killed near the town of Beresford. He had been married less than a year, the young couple making their home at Hawarden.

The Andersons lived approximately 28 years in the section house, then in 1912 they purchased a home in the south part of Hawarden, near the airport of today and the family moved there.

Martin, Carl, John and Ingwald followed their fathers line, as they worked in the Northwestern railroad yard in Hawarden.

That section house no doubt had more people go in and out it's doors during the time it was there than any home in these parts. The building was purchased by Axel Johnson and torn down after the Andersons moved to Hawarden.

Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1918 at the age of 66 years. Mr. Anderson in 1927 at the age of 78 years.

Olof Anderson Family

Olof Anderson was born in Sweden, August 12, 1831. In April of 1854 he married Sarah C. Anderson. In the spring of 1869 Mr. Anderson and family came to America, settling first in Lawrence, Kansas. Then in 1873 the family left the then settled Kansas for Dakota Territory, homesteading northwest of the Big Springs Baptist Church—now one of the Edson farms.

Very early the family affiliated with the Big Springs Baptist Church. When the Baptist church in Alcester was organized Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, having retired and living in Alcester, became char-

Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Anderson

ter members. Mrs. Anderson died in 1912, Mr. Anderson in 1913.

Ten children were born to the Andersons (not necessarily listed according to age): Gustav, born in Sweden, died at the age of 5; Emma, born in Kansas, died 11 weeks after birth. Children reaching maturity were: Tillie (Mrs. Andrew Wallin), Eva (Mrs. Joseph Johnson), Sophia (Mrs. Joel Nelson), Mary (Mrs. A. G. Anderson, Janesville, Wisc.) and Hannah who never married.

In view of the fact that in this Scandinavian community there were many Andersons, the three sons changed their name to Edson. The sons were Andrew, John and Charlie. Andrew and John were pioneering businessmen of Alcester.

Charles A. and Mary Anderton

Charles A. and Mary Ann Anderton were among the early pioneers of this vicinity. Both had been born in England and had lived in Wisconsin and Canada before coming to Dakota Territory. They came by covered wagon, in the company of the Hoard and Haskins families, in May of 1874 and camped a little west of what is now Alcester.

Later the Andertons settled just east of Big Springs on the Lind place, now owned by Ralph Johnson. For many years the Big Springs picnics were held in the big grove of trees planted by the Andertons.

The stage coach between Sioux City and Sioux Falls made a stop there, and the Anderton girls, being good cooks, fed the passengers. Their home was always open to weary travelers.

One incident can be related to illustrate the hardships endured by those early pioneers. The wheat crop was beautiful, but then the dreaded grasshoppers moved in. Mr. Anderton and his family hurriedly got out the header and tried to save their crop. After three rounds of the field, their crop had been utterly laid waste. Even the sunbonnets of the girls had been eaten full of holes by these unwelcome visitors.

Mr. Anderton lived at various places. He filed claim to the farm on which his great grandson, Lyle Larson, now lives.

Discouraged by the rigorous winters and the grasshoppers, the Andertons constructed a house boat at Sioux City and went to Florida. They yearned for Dakota and returned.

Mrs. Anderton passed away in 1885 and is buried in Big Springs cemetery.

Mr. Anderton with the four youngest children moved to Arkansas and lived in the Ozarks for a short period of time. When he came back to Dakota, he purchased the farm where his son, C. F. Anderton, farmed and where Clifford Anderton now farms.

Mr. Anderton worked as a cream buyer and then moved to Hammond, La., to live near a daughter. He passed away in 1898 and is buried there.

The Andertons raised nine children, of whom one survives—Mrs. Harvey (Grace) Cox at Albany, Ore. Many of the descendants of the Andertons live in the Alcester community. Besides the above mentioned, one daughter Emma became Mrs. C. J. Johnson and a number of her children live in the Big Springs and Alcester area. Other descendants live in the Hawarden and Alcester communities. Many others found homes elsewhere.

August Asper

August Asper and his brother Carl left Oslo, Norway, in 1872. They came by steamboat to New York and from there to Eldora, Iowa, by train. They stayed there about a year, working as hired help for some farmers. Then they went back to Norway, were married and came back to Eldora with their brides and stayed with a cousin for a short time.

August and Laura Asper Family
Back row: Lewis, Anna, Alfred. **Middle row:** Oluf, August (father) and Laura (mother). **Front row:** Nora in lap and Nettie.

They bought a team of mules and a covered wagon and drove to Dakota Territory in 1874. August and Laura Asper settled on a homestead five and one-half miles north of Alcester where they raised nine children. Two children died in infancy. The children still living are: Mrs. Annie Herbrandson, Mrs. Nettie Hagen, and Charlie Asper. Those deceased are: Mrs. Nora Wennblom, Lewis, Alfred and Olaf Asper.

Peter and Sophia Axling

As the Indians sold their land to the government and moved onto reservations, Dakota Territory opened up for settlement.

This news spread even across the ocean and great numbers of people came to seek new homes in the golden west. In Sweden, times were hard at that time and when the Peter Axlings heard the good news of getting 160 acres of land free they soon decided to come to Dakota Territory.

Accordingly Mr. Axling arrived in the Territory in about 1870, filing a homestead claim to the SE quarter of Section 35, Alcester township; reputedly this section was one of the best in Union County. Mrs. Axling and baby John arrived a year or two later than her husband.

Mr. Axling, being a blacksmith by trade, put up a small workshop and did much to help other settlers. He and others found employment in cities and some at railroad construction work then being done extensively—this to earn necessary money which was so scarce.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Axling
(Picture Taken Before 1887)

The Axlings had eight children, one passing away in infancy. Philip, the second son, was left completely deaf through a severe case of scarlet fever; he received his grade and high school education in the school for the deaf at Sioux Falls and later taught there a number of years.

Hoping to find a milder climate beneficial to Mr. Axling's arthritic condition, the family left the homestead in 1889 for the Pacific Northwest.

Very early in their stay in Dakota this family affiliated with the Big Springs Baptist Church.

Some of the children of the Axlings still reside in or near where Peter and Sophia resided in Washington State and in the beautiful cemetery at Lynden those early Dakota pioneers have long been at rest.

Edgar P. Bartlett

Edgar P. Bartlett was born in New York in 1845. During the Civil War he worked as a freighter for the Union Army. In 1865 he married Miss Arminta Norris in Wisconsin. For the next few years they lived at Pine River, Wisc., and Mr. Bartlett worked as a lumberman in winter and on log rafts by means of which logs were floated down the Mississippi River to saw mills, often clear to New Orleans.

In 1873 they came by covered wagon to Dakota Territory. Their first home was a mile and a half south of Alcester. In 1875 they homesteaded a mile and a half north and one mile east of Alcester on the farm which is still occupied by a grandson.

To make a living for his family, Mr. Bartlett began freighting and during the gold rush days in the Black Hills he hauled freight from Fort Pierre to Deadwood. He often told stories of the things he saw there and the notorious characters who gave Deadwood the legendary reputation it achieved.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett: Fanny (Mrs. Henry Purdy), Mamie (Mrs. Jack Cole), Harry and Roy. All four children spent their lives in the vicinity of Alcester. Harry, the only survivor, is still living in Alcester.

William Belkey

William Belkey was born in the province Pomerm, Germany, March 2, 1847. He acquired his education there and when 18 years of age came to America, landing at the city of Baltimore, Md., June 17, 1866. From there he went to Green Lake County, Wisc., where he worked as a farm laborer until he saved enough to acquire a farm of his own in Waupaca County which he farmed for seven years. Then he went to Cedar Falls, Iowa, and engaged in teaming and from there he came to South Dakota (raw prairie land at the time) and homesteaded southwest of Alcester.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Belkey

The first five years the Belkeys lived in a dugout 12'x18'. Then he built a residence which cost him $1500 and at that time was considered a commodius dwelling. Mr. Belkey had only $2.50 and his team when he arrived in Union County, but with his energy and perseverance he was able to make a good living for his family. In the early 1900s he built the Opera House in Alcester which is now known as the Swenson building, and in 1904 he retired from the farm and moved to Alcester to look after his interest there.

Mr. Belkey married Augusta Bartz, who came from the same province in Germany, in 1866 and to this family were born 11 children: Huldah (Mrs. John Heldt); Emma (Mrs. Bert Knight); Lizzie (Mrs. Weidler Hoover); Clara (Mrs. L. Beverly); Augusta (Mrs. Burdette Dodd); Walter and George; and Cora (Mrs. Cora Kieser), whom they raised. Of these, Walter, George and Cora remain.

Mr. Belkey took much interest in local affairs and politics, was a member of the school board and voted the Populist ticket. Mr. and Mrs. Belkey were members of good standing in the German Lutheran Church of which he served as an official.

William Belkey died April 18, 1909, at the age of 62. The farm which was homesteaded by him is still being farmed by his son and grandson, George and Melvin Belkey.

Broline

Claus, Theodore, August

Claus and Magdalena Broline with their sons, Theodore and August, came to Dakota Territory from Sweden in 1881. They settled on a farm two miles east and a half mile north of Alcester.

Theodore for several years worked on the railroad which was then being built. He married Hannah Lindgren in April of 1890. Four children were born to them, Nellie, Harry, Edgar and David.

On the farm on which the Brolines settled, Theodore lived out his life. This was the farmstead directly east of the Alcester Golf course. He filled many positions of trust, for many years serving on the township board, also for many years serving as road supervisor. He passed away Aug. 8, 1949, and his wife on Nov. 24, 1950. Claus, the father, died after some years in Dakota, the mother passing away in April of 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus Broline

Descendants of the Theodore Broline family now living are Mrs. Nellie Larson, Harry and Edgar of Alcester, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

August Broline as a young man learned the carpenter trade in Sioux City; however, he returned to the Alcester vicinity for some years, farming the Kelley farm, now the golf grounds. On June 24, 1897, he married Mary Tunell. In 1900 he and his wife moved to Alcester engaging in the general merchandise business, mostly in the now Paul Erichsen building, however, his store was moved to the room now occupied by Swenson's store—the first store to be in that part of this building.

In that building after a short time he sold his business to H. H. Numsen. Then he became a building contractor. For some years he did an extensive business, building many of the better buildings of Alcester and vicinity.

But a growing family needed employment, so again he went into business—this time groceries. During World War II, with both Edwin and Elmer in their country's service, August and Eva could no longer take the work, so the store was sold to Morris Hongslo. August passed away March 19, 1944. His wife Mary, now 88 years old, is hale and hearty.

Descendents now living are as follows: Eva (Mrs. Walter Day), Edwin, Elmer, Ina (Mrs. Eric Thormodgaard), Eunice (Mrs. Ray Olson), eleven grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren. One son, Lester, passed away while quite young.

Thomas Cole Family

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cole and family of nine children came to Dakota Territory in 1878 from Sumner, Iowa. They drove an ox-drawn wagon with their personal belongings. Mrs. Cole drove a team of horses on a buggy and the older boys drove a herd of 30 head of cattle. The cattle attracted a lot of attention as they traveled through the country as cattle were scarce in this area as yet and a herd of this size was unusual.

Jack and George Cole, who were to take over operation of the farm upon the death of their father, had another brother, Oris, two sisters, Carrie and Edith, two half brothers, Henry and Will Purdy, and two half sisters, Bell and Lydia.

The farm, which is the present Milt Cole farm, was purchased by a trade for a wagon running gear, a team of horses and a hand-operated sewing machine.

The first family home was a dugout as was true in most pioneer families.

Thomas Cole died in 1898, Mrs. Cole in 1909.

Upon the death of the father, Jack and George took over the operation of the land and purchased an additional 160 acres, north of the present Cole school.

Jack married Marion Bartlett, daughter of E. P. Bartlett. Six children were born to them: O. G. Cole of Deadwood; Silver Cole and Elsie Ekren of California; Seba Offstad of Canton; Vera Hultgren of Alcester; and Milton Cole of Geneseo, Ill.

Jack and George Cole were well known in this area, Jack being locally famous as a humorist and many variations of his stories and quips are still told.

Jack went to the Klondike during the Gold Rush. It is reported that he and George played a game of pitch to decide who would make the trip; Jack won and George as the loser stayed home to operate the farm.

George Cole died in 1939, Jack in 1948, and Mrs. Jack Cole in 1953.

All of the Jack Cole children survive at this writing.

William Costar

In 1870 William Costar came to the Dakotas with his parents, William and Elizabeth, who took a homestead three miles west and two miles south of what is now the City of Alcester. In the same year Fannie Williams, who was then eight years old, came to the same territory with her parents in a covered wagon drawn by oxen. They took a homestead three miles west of Alcester.

The Costar home also served as a post office when mail was left off there for the other settlers in the area to pick up. It later became the Grove Hill Postoffice.

As children, William and Fannie went through trying times with drouth, grasshoppers, and raging blizzards. The only fuel was wood cut and hauled from the banks of the Missouri River, and food supplies were brought from Portlandville—now Akron, Iowa. They walked across the unbroken prairies to school which was held in a small sod shanty about a mile east of the Williams' home. The schoolhouse was also used as a church and was called Antioch, with an itinerant pastor riding in on horseback. The church later became the Congregational Church in Alcester, but the sod shanty remained until it gave way to what is now Dodd School.

William and Fannie married and had four children, Irene Morgan, Wayne Costar, Gladys Cornish, and Ward Costar who still resides on the original Williams' homestead three miles west of Alcester.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Day

In the year of 1891, in the month of April, a newly-wed couple arrived in this vicinity, they being among the last of the pioneers coming to this part of South Dakota by ox team. They were Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Day, locating on a farm five and one-half miles northeast of Alcester.

This farm was homesteaded and owned by the Horners and was purchased by the Days. Due to their late arrival, they were able to put in only a small acreage of crops that first year.

They also went through some of the hardships, due to drouths and grasshoppers, as other pioneers did.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Day
(Picture Taken in 1891)

A dugout was the only dwelling place available so they set the covered wagon on the ground and used it as living quarters that summer until a permanent house was built.

Water was always a problem and so homes were built close to a spring or where water was available. Here the supply was a spring fed shallow well more than 80 rods from the house. No doubt this inspired Mr. Day, or Dickie as he was so well known, to make a well drilling machine. He drilled a deep well near the house which to this day is the source of water for the farm. He drilled many wells around southern Lincoln and northern Union counties and this was an added income for the family for many years.

To this couple a family of four children was born: Maud (Mrs. Wm. Albers), Fred and Walter, all of Alcester—the latter two now deceased—and Harry, who now owns and resides on the home place.

Dick loved to hunt and fish and this he did as a hobby all his life. The early years he hunted quail and prairie chickens which were shipped to eastern markets.

Mr. Day was born in England in 1869; the family immigrated to Canada when he was nine years old, and two years later to Iowa. He died in 1949. Mrs. Day was born near LeMars, Iowa, in 1871. She died in 1934.

As of this date (May 1961) there are 15 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren.

Disbrow Family

Arthur Scofield Disbrow, was born at Rosendale, Wisc., on Feb. 15, 1856. He came to Dakota Territory, Union County in 1873, alone with an ox-drawn, covered wagon taking 21 days of struggling through mud holes in the Iowa roads.

He crossed the big Sioux River at Portlandville, now Akron, Iowa, and came up into Dakota to the rich rolling hills, where he homesteaded on a quarter section of land just one mile south of where Alcester now stands.

Life was very lonely for the young pioneer in his sod shanty and he would walk for miles to find someone to talk to. Two years later his brother, Edward Delevan Disbrow, and a sister Addie, came to join him.

His father, Martin Luther Disbrow, came later along with the rest of the children, Angeline Mary, and Alathea, and settled at Hawarden for a while before coming over to Dakota Territory. The children of Martin Luther, and Hannah Scofield Disbrow, were all Dakota pioneers.

Arthur Scofield Disbrow helped found the Grave Hill (now named Alcester) Congregational church in Gothland community, and at one of the revival meetings held in a sod shanty on the Wm. H. Dodd farm, he and his fiance, Mary Elvina Hoard, were converted. This meeting was held in February 1877; the Congo church was organized in March 1877, making them two charter members. Arthur and Mary were married in the Gothland vicinity September 16, 1877.

Mr. Disbrow, besides helping found the Congregational church, was active in many other community movements—temperance, good government and education; was one of the group to found the first school, where the Dodd school now stands; gave a scholarship fund at the founding of Yankton College, became a charter member and a long time member of the corporate board; was one of the founders of the S. D. Children's Home in Sioux Falls, being given the distinction by this institution of honorary director for life.

In partnership with his brother-in-law, John Hoard, they founded the first grain elevator and stock yards in Alcester; and for a number of years he was vice president of the State Bank of Alcester.

Mr. and Mrs. Disbrow were parents of five children, two passing away in infancy. Mrs. Disbrow passed away in February 1929 at the age of 72 years and Mr. Disbrow died in February 1946 at the age of 90 years.

At this writing in 1961 there are 15 grandchildren, all born in South Dakota, several great and great-great and four great-great-great grandchildren.

Ira Doty Family

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Doty and son, N. M. Doty, came to Union County in 1892 from Plymouth county, Iowa, from a farm eight miles east of Akron on the Broken Kettle road. They spent a year near Richland on a farm with their daughter Laura and family (Mr. and Mrs. Grant Troxell). In 1893 they moved with this family to Big Springs township.

In 1894 their son Frank came to Union County from Iowa, and rented a farm 2 miles east and 2 and one-half miles north of Alcester, (now the Frank Doty and N. M. Doty farms). Ira Doty and wife and two sons moved to the farm and built up the buildings, including the house where Mrs. N. M. Doty now lives. The material for the house amounted to around $300, and Ira Doty, a carpenter, as well as a farmer, directed the erection of the buildings. Ira Doty lived there until his death on March 24, 1901. His early death was attributed to injuries he had received in action in the Civil War. His wife continued to reside there until her death in 1916.

Of the nine children born to Ira Doty and wife Harriet, two are still living—John Warren, 92 years of age, now living in Corvallis, Ore., and Frank Lyman, 85 years of age, living in his farm home northeast of Alcester.

Ernest Ludwig Draves

Ernest Ludwig Draves, was born in Germany, September 13, 1823. Ernestine Draves was also born in Germany, January 17, 1827. They were married in Germany and three children were born to them: Henrietta Johannsen, born March 2, 1853, and died September 30, 1944; Albert H. Draves, born March 1, 1864, and Oteilge W. Draves, born February 13, 1870, in Wisconsin and who died in South Dakota Territory December 24, 1878.

They came to the United States in 1866 and lived near Ripon, Wisc., coming to South Dakota Territory in 1873 by covered wagon. They homesteaded south of Alcester.

Ernest Ludwig Draves died March 25, 1902, at his home and his wife continued to live on the farm. Her son Albert then was part farmer and one of the first rural mail carriers. Albert was married on April 2, 1891, to Marie Reinert of Wisconsin and they lived on the farm for 26 years. They had one son, William E., by adoption, and also took to raise in their home Ruth Reynolds.

his wife Alvina passed away May 14, 1955. All of the Draves were charter members of Peace Lutheran Church.

Albert Draves passed away April 3, 1948, and

Fire consumed one of the homes on the farm about May 1, 1924; it was rebuilt in June 1924.

Albert Draves lived for some time in California. After being rented for some time, the farm is at

present time being occupied by the William Draves family.

A number of years ago when the Ernest Draves were still living, Mrs. Hannah Weidenfeller made her home with the Draves for sometime. Mrs. Hannah Weidenfeller is a daughter of Mrs. Henrietta Johannsen.

Andrew Edson Family

In 1869, at the age of 10 years, Andrew came with his parents and the rest of the family to the United States from Sweden. The family first located in Lawrence, Kansas, then in 1873 they came to Dakota Territory homesteading in Big Springs township of Union County. Here Andrew grew to manhood and as a young man taught school for a year in the Prospect Hill school.

He was married in 1883 at Akron, Iowa, to Emily Lillian Johnson. Six children were born to them: Amy (Mrs. Charles McDonald); Olive (Mrs. Eng. Anderson); Arthur, Ray, Wendell and Dewey. While some of the children were still quite young Mrs. Edson passed away.

Andrew's business experience began as a clerk in a store in Akron shortly before his marriage. For the next nine years he clerked in and managed stores in Akron, Hawarden, Canova and Salem. In 1892 he constructed a building and opened a general merchandise store in West Sioux Falls. In 1895 he moved to Alcester becoming a member of the business firm of Johnson Bros. and Edson. The building he erected in West Sioux Falls is a part of Alcester's business district as is related elsewhere in this book.

In 1903 he and his brother John formed the Edson Bros. Hardware firm in Alcester. In 1930 this was sold to Elvings.

In June of 1913 Andrew was married to Nettie A. Elving. For some years before his death in April of 1944 he was in poor health, for some years being blind.

Mr. Edson, a member of the Big Springs Baptist church for many years, transferred his membership to the Baptist church in Alcester when this was organized, being one of the charter members. In this church he held many positions of trust.

John Edson Family

John W. Edson was born in Sweden September 9, 1867. Coming with his parents to the United States in 1869, they first settled in Lawrence, Kan. Here they spent four years, then moving to the small prairie community of Big Springs in Dakota Territory—the family first living in a sod house. He joined the First Baptist church of Big Springs, later transferring his membership to the Baptist church in Alcester.

As a young man much interested in mechanics, John was one of the very first engineers of steam tractors when these appeared on the scene. These were then used almost exclusively to power threshing machines. It was no easy job to get up at three o'clock in the morning to get the boiler steamed up.

On Oct 4, 1899, he was married to Eva Cox at her parental home also in the Big Springs community. Two children were born to them: Alida (Mrs. Harry Lee) and Adelia (Mrs. Bernt Sundvold).

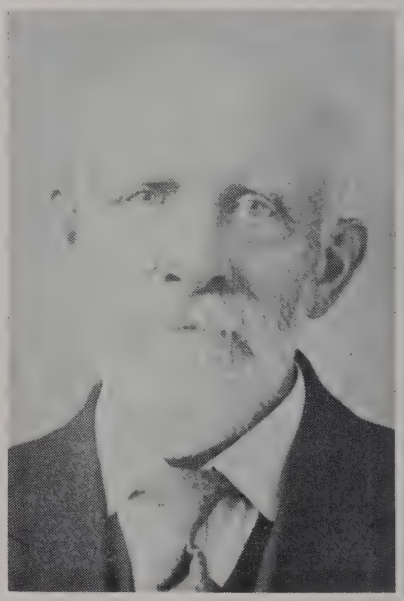
John resided in the Big Springs and Alcester community all his life with the exception of a short time at Montrose and Sioux Falls. He was in the hardware business in Alcester with his brother Andrew for 29 years, retiring from this business in 1930.

John Edson was instrumental in constructing Alcester's water system. Then when constructed he reliably and efficiently served the city as superintendent of the city waterworks—this for no less than 41 years.

Mr. Edson passed away in 1953. Mrs. Edson is still residing in the home they lived in for such a long time.

John Elving

John Elving, a pioneer of the Alcester community, came to America from Sweden in 1868, locating in New York. On December 5, 1869, he married Marie Carlson, also of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Elving lived in Brooklyn, N. Y., where Mr. Elving pursued his trade of carpenter and cabinet maker.



John Elving, Sr.

In 1873 Mr. Elving moved his family to a homestead a few miles southeast of the present site of Alcester. In 1878 the family, now numbering five children, was stricken with scarlet fever and death claimed Mrs. Elving and two of the children. Mr. Elving, faced with the problem of three motherless young children and the loss of their crop to the grasshopper plague of that year, moved to

Sioux City where he worked again as a carpenter. While living there he met and married a widow, Mrs. Martha Nordholm. Four children were born to them, two boys and two girls. In 1882 they again moved on to the homestead where they lived until 1915 when they built a house in Alcester and lived there the remaining years. Mrs. Elving passed away August 6, 1919, and Mr. Elving September 25, 1925.

The descendants are the following: John J. Elving, Mrs. Andrew Edson, Mrs. Clark Hollanback, Oscar Elving, Mrs. N. B. Ericson, Paul Elving, Joe Elving, and Mr. William Elving.

At the present writing there are 31 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Of historical interest, the Elving Homestead was at one time crossed by the military and stage coach road of the early days. Mr. Elving told of his experiences with the Indians which happily were of a friendly nature. He sold them watermelons.

Everett Amos Emmert

Everett Amos Emmert came to South Dakota in 1882 from DeWitt, Iowa, after his marriage to Maryetta White.

They settled on a claim in Hand county where their three children were born. One, a son, died at the age of two years. Then came a daughter, now Mrs. Hortense Insley of Aberdeen. Two years later a second daughter, now Mrs. Mary Anderson of Harrisburg, Ore., was born, and the family faced their second tragedy in this frontier land. Mrs. Emmert died an hour after her daughter was born. A wonderful neighbor lady raised Mary until she was six months old.

In 1894 Mr. Emmert brought his two daughters and his mother's sister, Susan McCarcle, to a farm in Union county west of Alcester.

In 1895 he was married to Bertha Ried. Two children were born to them, Susie Roberts in 1899 and Everett in 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmert opened a small grocery store on an acreage northwest of Alcester and Mr. Emmert also operated a grocery wagon which traveled around the country.

In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. Emmert bought the present Emmert House which was then known as The Commercial Hotel. This hostelry then consisted of eight rooms and a path.

At this time almost all travel was by train and accommodations for travelers were often at a premium. Oftentimes guests had to make use of beds made up on the floor. It required hard work to maintain an establishment of this kind. Linen was washed in hand operated washing machines, heating was by several coal and wood stoves. Kerosene lamps required much care and cleaning. Water was heated in wash boilers and carried by hand. Mr. Emmert was the first to have a street lamp in front of his place, a welcome beacon for travelers arriving on night trains.

In this location, Mr. Emmert remodeled and constructed a general store which the family operated for years. They also bought cream, eggs and poultry. In 1915 the store stock was sold out and the store was converted into a picture show, as the silent movies were called at that time. The theater was successful and Mr. Emmert operated it until the advent of the talking pictures.

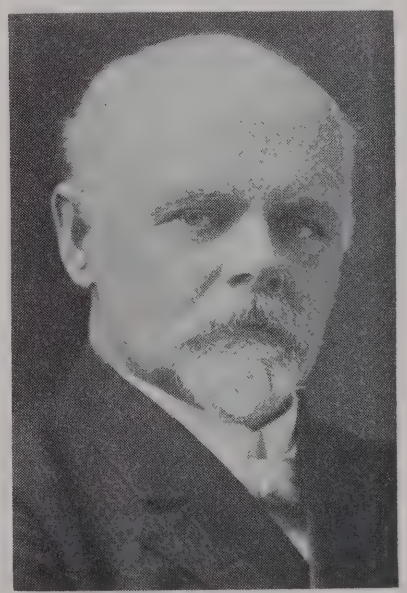
In 1931 Mr. Emmert passed away following eye surgery. Mrs. Emmert continued to operate the rooming house which now consisted of 36 rooms and a freight elevator. Mrs. Emmert still operates the business which now has been converted to an apartment house and a beauty shop, which Mrs. Susie Roberts has operated for 35 years. Mrs. Emmert, besides running her apartment house, cares for a large flower garden of which she is very proud.

In these days of atomic bomb threats, Mrs. Emmert is proud of her fallout shelter, a large cemented cave under the building which was once used as a storage space for potatoes and apples when the store was in operation. At this writing Mrs. Emmert has operated this business for 59 years.

Edward Charles Ericson

E. O. Ericson was born in 1856 in Sweden, to Eric and Johanna (Norden) Ericson. After coming to America in 1865 he attended the public schools of New York and Brooklyn, then entered the New York Free Academy, and later on the College of the City of New York.

He left college in 1874 and came to Union County, South Dakota, and for a while taught school and farmed till 1879, when he took up reading of law in the office of Alexander Hughes at Elk Point. He was admitted to the bar in 1881.



E. C. Ericson, One of the Pioneering Attorneys of Union County.

He was a member of the Legislature for two terms and in 1892 a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He also was elected mayor of the City of Elk Point and served on the Board of Regents when South Dakota and North Dakota were one territory.

He was married to Sylvia Hayes in 1881. Three children were born to them: Harry, Nellie and Florence.

He practiced law in Elk Point until his death in 1910.

Eric W. Ericson

Eric W. Ericson was born to Eric and Johanna (Norden) Ericson March 16, 1858, in Sweden. The father died in the old country in 1859 and in 1865 the mother and family immigrated to the new world.

They passed the next seven years in New York City and Brooklyn where Eric attended school.

E. W. Ericson

In 1872 Eric and his mother came to Dakota Territory, to the P. A. Ring place where they lived one year. Their first home was a sod house with a dirt roof, and a little later they erected a small frame house which still stands on the farm occupied by his son, W. L. Ericson, and family.

In 1895 he acted as postmaster in the lower house of the State Legislature. He also served four terms in South Dakota Senate, as assessor for Big Springs Township for 30 years, and as Big Springs township clerk for 40 years.

Mr. Ericson was married to Miss Mary Peterson, daughter of A. P. Peterson. They were the parents of five children: Edwin, who preceded his father in death in 1911, Ruth Kier, Florence Speh, Charles and W. L. Ericson.

Mr. Ericson passed away Nov. 11, 1951, at the age of 93 years.

Mrs. Johanna Ericson

Johanna Christine Norden was born October 26, 1835, at Finspong, Ostergattand, Sweden. On March 2, 1855, she was married to Eric Ericson. Two sons were born to them, Edward Charles and Eric William.

Mrs. Johanna Ericson, the midwife of pioneering days — a helper to all who were ill. Mother of E. C. and E. W. Ericson.

After her husband died in 1859, Mrs. Ericson went to a maternity hospital at Gothenberg where she studied to become a midwife. In 1865 she came to America with her two sons, landing in New York City where she lived until 1872. At that time she and her younger son, Eric, moved to the Big Springs, South Dakota, Territory, to the P. A. Ring place. In the spring of 1873 they moved onto their homestead where she lived until her death.

Mrs. Ericson spent a great deal of her time going from home to home serving as midwife and administering to the sick. She died July 5, 1925.

John Henry Fickbohm

John Henry Fickbohm was born in Hanover, Germany, February 15, 1844. He came to America when a young man to Galena, Ill. He joined the navy at the age of 19 and was a cook's helper on the gunboat Marblehead during the Civil War. He was a member of the crew that walked across the Isthmus of Panama where the canal was later built. He was the only member of the crew that survived, although he never fully recovered from the effects of the dreaded yellow fever.

On December 20, 1870, he was married to Sophia Behnke of Galena, Ill. They then came to Dakota Territory and took a homestead in Spink township. Here they lived 41 years until Mr. Fickbohm died

March 25, 1911. They endured all the hardships of living in a dugout, the grasshopper plague and the blizzards. Eleven children were born to them. Mrs. Fickbohm died September 11, 1947.

Four of their children have passed away. They had 70 grandchildren. Among the living children are: George, living in Alcester; and six daughters: Mrs. Anna Wagner, Mrs. Wm. Peterson, Ella Lewison, Mrs. Rose Johnson, Mrs. Severt Sommervold and Mrs. Henry Groon.

Finn
(Nelson, Alvin D. and Charles Warren)

Nelson Finn homesteaded in 1870 one mile southeast of Alcester on what is now the Wilton Sandvall farm. He had lived in New York State and Wisconsin before coming to Dakota Territory.

His first wife (Pamela Hart) had passed away in 1846 but their five children: James, Gurden, Charlotte (Mrs. Catlin), Andrew J., and Charles W., came to Dakota Territory. Mr. Finn and his second wife (Caroline Jenkinson) also had five children: Alvin D., William, Cynthia (Mrs. Ellis), Henry, and Mary Jane (Mrs. Manary). The family came by covered wagon to join Mr. Finn in 1871. Many of the children also homesteaded in Union County in the immediate vicinity of Alcester.

The elder Mr. Finn was a good carpenter and he donated his labor for the building of the first schoolhouse in the community. It was called the Finn school and was located at the site of the present Finn school.

Alvin D. was born in Wisconsin in 1852 and came to Dakota Territory in 1871 with the rest of the family. He homesteaded on eighty acres adjacent and south of his father's land. He cared for his blind mother after his father's death in 1896.

Alvin D. married Anne Marie Mathilde Wendt in 1893. She had been born in Germany in 1871 and had come to the United States in 1889. Three of their four children (one died in infancy) are living. They are Mrs. Oscar Newberg (Evaline) and Mrs. Carrie Tucker of Alcester, and David of rural Valley Springs, So. Dak.

Alvin D. was active in community affairs just as his father had been. He served on the school and township boards. He belonged to the Congregational church and was a staunch Republican. He died in 1934 and his wife died in 1942.

Charles Warren Finn was born in New York on July 29, 1842. He and his wife Rose Anna Seiders had lived in Wisconsin before coming to Union County and locating on the homestead one and a half miles east of Alcester in 1872.

He served as census enumerator in 1880. He also served as justice of peace, school board member, and he held the appointment of postmaster at Alcester under President Harrison in the days before the rural routes were established.

He was very community minded and through his efforts the Old Settlers Picnic Association, the

Charles Finn. A Bridgman picture, taken in the early days of Alcester.

Cemetery Association, and the erection of a fine flagstaff in Alcester became a reality. He was one of the outstanding leaders of the Methodist church in Alcester.

He was the last of the Civil War veterans in this community. He had enlisted in Co. K, 23rd Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, in 1862. He was a charter member of the Gen. John A. Logan Post No. 154 and was the commander at one time.

He passed away in 1923 at the ae of 81, and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Mrs. Clara Hall of rural Sioux Falls and Mrs. Amy Mitchell of Alcester are his daughters. Stanley and Harry, the sons, are deceased.

Many descendants of the Finns live in the Alcester community.

Other information about the Finns includes the following. Mrs. Catlin (Charlotte) ran the post office in Alcester at one time. Gurden homesteaded the land that is on the Walt Jensen farm now.

Andrew homesteaded the land one and one-half miles southwest of Alcester, which is now owned by Harry Eden. He sold this land and bought land northeast of Alcester, the place where Elmer Olsons now live.

James died quite young.

Mrs. Manary died as the result of fighting a prairie fire. Maggie Bjork is her daughter.

William Henry Gosline Family

By Flora Wells

Born on November 12, 1884, I was the first new baby to arrive in the town of Alcester, So. Dak.

My father, Wm. Henry Gosline, mother, Martha, with their one son and six daughters, moved to

that part of Union county from near Ponca, Nebr. Father came to Alcester as agent for the Western Town Lot Co. which operated under the land department of the Chicago and North-Western Railway Co. He later established a blacksmith and carpenter shop and a feed stable. Farmers wishing to stable their horses while in town could do so at 25c per horse with an extra charge if hay or grain were fed. Father also was justice of the peace.

Father's ledger, which I have, shows the following names of rural and local residents: Wm. Van Horn, ? Willerton, Shelt Green, A. C. Knight, Frank Slocum, Fred Slocum, Ham Mitchell, Chas. Bushnell, Dan Thomas, Dr. Myers, G. W. Doty, Ped Hays, Geo. Weed, Frank Page, Tom Sedgwick, Wm. Sedgwick, Al Reed, Amos Hoskins, Reuben Harding, Leonard Harding, Al Chesley, John Hoard, H. P. Hoard, M. L. Disbrow, Richard Walrath, King Wheeler, O. C. Freeman, H. H. Sherman, Elmer Sherman, Wm. Coster, Andrew Finn, Wm. Finn, John Callon, Nelson Ralston, Ed Bartlet, John McNamarra, C. Fleshman.

When I enrolled in school in the fall of 1889, there was only a new one-roomed school building. The teacher's name was Mr. St. John. He was, in a way, irrational. He wore a swallow tailed coat and it seemed the tails floated straight out behind him as he rushed down the aisle to seize a mischief-maker by the coat collar and shake him back and forth across the aisle to the front of the room.

Prior to the building of the town school my brother and sisters, with the other school age children in Alcester, attended the Finn country school about two miles from town. Later, when the school was enlarged to two rooms, the teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Sargeant. Later, Mrs. Washburn and Miss Watts.

The earliest business man I remember was Mr. Peters. His general store was located on Broad St. between Main and Front Sts. It was destroyed by fire about 1887. His two clerks were Otto and August Ross who took their meals in our home as there was no hotel in Alcester at that time.

Later the main business street was located on Iowa St. Early business places there were the A. C. Knight hardware, Ben and Jack Frost hardware, Johnson & Edson general store, Orson Hoard hotel, Vance editor, Dr. Myers drug store, John Morrisey livery stable, John Hoard elevator, Geo. Miller creamery and others I don't recall.

Our ministers were Rev. Washburn, Congregational church, and Rev. Acres, Presbyterian church.

The first depot agent, whom I remember, was Mr. Tubbs whose daughters, Goldie and Bertha, were our playmates. He was followed by Mr. Button, whose daughter, Pearle, was also our playmate. I remember I couldn't quite figure out why Goldie was so named when her hair was black, and why Pearle Button had such a queer name.

Family History (Archie Gubbrud)

By Olive Gubbrud Tuntland

Peter T. Gubbrud, pioneer grandfather of the present governor of South Dakota, Archie Gubbrud, came to America from Norway by sailboat in 1865. He left home on April 28 at the age of 19 and after 16 weeks on the ocean, landed in the United States. He went to Spring Valley, Minn., where he worked for four years.

Like many other pioneers, his ambition was to own a piece of good land and build a home. So in 1865 he and his older brother, Paul, started for Dakota Territory in the covered wagon. They also owned a cow, an old wagon and each a pair of oxen. At Beloit, Iowa, they met Halvor Nilson who went with them into Dakota to locate homesteads. They walked as far south as the northeast corner of Norway township in Lincoln County, S. D. The country there looked good to both the brothers and seemed to be what they wanted. Peter located on the NE¼ of Section 1 and Paul on the SE quarter of the same section. The records of Adolph Gubbrud, family historian, state, "As far as I know these were the two first quarter sections filed in Norway Twp. Peter's sod house and Paul's stable were built on adjoining spots along the north-south line that separated them. They lived and worked together for about four years until they both married."

On July 24, 1873, Peter married Oline Lybeck, who was born at Payne Creek, Iowa, on November 29, 1856. She grew up in the Newton Hills area near Canton, S. D. This couple became the parents of 12 children. Forval Marius, father of the governor was their third child. The land was good to Oline and Peter Gubbrud and they lived happily on their homestead until their deaths in 1916 and 1918, respectively.

T. Marius Gubbrud was born on the old family homestead in the Alcester community on March 17, 1878. He attended Augustana College, located at Canton, and Sioux Falls Business College. On September 17, 1908, he married Ella Rommereim of Beresford, S. D. She was born at Creston, Ill., on August 30, 1885, the daughter of Andrew and Anne Ijurson Rommereim. Her parents were married in Norway in 1875 and came to America the same year. They lived in Lee Co., Ill., for 12 years. In 1887 they moved west and settled on the farm they bought in Lincoln County, Dakota Territory. On this place in Pleasant township eleven of their children and one foster son, grew up. The father, Andrew Rommereim, served two terms in the South Dakota legislature, 1911-12 and 1913-14.

The Rommereim's sixth child, Ella, is the mother of the governor. She was two years old when she came with her family to the Beresford area. She attended college at Jewell, Iowa, for two years and taught in rural schools for five years prior to her marriage. Marius and Ella Gubbrud farmed in

Norway township until his death in 1934. Their youngest son, Clayton, and his family now operate the family farm. Mrs. Ella Gubbrud lives in Beresford, S. D. The four children, Olive, Archie, Leslie and Clayton, are all residents of the Alcester-Beresford communities where the grandparents pioneered and lived until their days were done.

Peter T. Hagen

Mr. and Mrs. Peter T. Hagen left Oslo, Norway, July 17, 1868. They came to Janesville, Wisc., and stayed there five years working in a furniture

In July 25, 1873, they came to Lincoln County and took a homestead four miles north and a mile east of Alcester. They lived on this homestead 84 years, then moved to Alcester, where they spent the rest of their lives.

They had ten children. One girl died in infancy. The children were: John, Lewis, Gust, Julia, Alma, Clara, Carl, Timon and Gina.

Reuben B. Harding

R. B. Harding was born in Waterloo, Wisc., March 3, 1856. His parents, William and Mary Harding came from England shortly after they were married. Reuben's mother was the daughter of a Lord but his father was a commoner.

Reuben Harding came from Wisconsin in the early 1870's and homesteaded on the land that is now the town of Alcester.

He sold the land for the townsite for $13.00 an acre. He also sold land for the Railroad right-of-way for which he received $7.00 an acre.

On Nov. 17, 1878, he was married to Laura Hoard and they spent the rest of their lives on the farm.

During the first years their marketing was done at LeMars and Elk Point. Mrs. Harding boarded the Railroad men who built the railroad through Alcester and erected the first depot.

In the first years on the homestead, fuel to burn was at a premium and they used anything they could find. The mainstay was the rank prairie grass which served the dual purpose of feed for animals and fuel for the humans.

Mr. and Mrs. Harding had seven children, Abby Lorraine, Ray, Earl, Grace, Mamie, Hazel, and Irene.

Mr. Harding died of pneumonia in January of 1932. Mrs. Harding died June 25, 1936. Two children survive, Mrs. E. R. Truesdell and Mrs. Grace Green of Los Angeles, Calif.

Fred Heiman

Fred Heiman was born in Sophinaburg, Germany, May 7, 1835. He came to the United States when about 18 years old and settled around Stevens Point, Wisc., where he worked as a cook in the lumber camps.

In 1867 he was married to Minnie Summerfield. Seven years later they came to Dakota Territory, settling about three miles south of where Alcester is located.

Mr. Heiman was a tailor by trade from training in Germany and many of the pioneers of this area wore suits which he had cut and fit for them.

When the land did not produce enough to support his large family he would go to Tracy, Minn., and work on the railroad.

He and his brother, William, were charter members of the Peace Lutheran Church.

There were eight children in the family: Lew, Fred, Albertina (Mrs. Gus Krall), August, William, Minnie (Mrs. Joe Briggs), Lizzie (Mrs. Gus Rosemore) and Henry. Two of the children are still living: Henry, the youngest resides at Lewistown, Mont.; Lew, the oldest, still lives on the farm where his parents settled in 1873.

Fred Heiman died October 27, 1914.

Lew Heiman

Lew Heiman, son of Minnie and Fred Heiman, was born at Stevens Point, Wisc., August 14, 1868. When he was about five years old, his parents came to Dakota Territory and settled about three miles south of the present location of Alcester.

He can recall when there was only prairie grass to be seen and the nearest trees were along the Sioux River. They traveled there by oxen to cut wood, spending three days on the trip.

He has a vivid recollection of the trials and hardships experienced during the early years. In 1891 he helped build the house now in use.

On March 30, 1910, he married Mathilda Hendrickson Scheels. They had three sons, William, Gus and Edward; also two step-sons, Henry (deceased) and Albert Scheels, who grew up in his home.

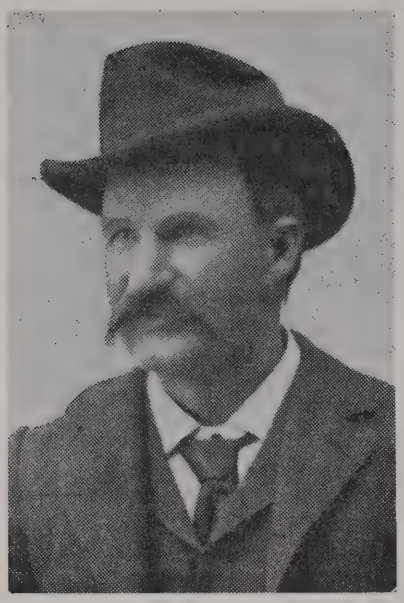
Mr. Heiman makes his home with his son, Ed, on the same place where his parents settled when they came to Dakota Territory. He has lived continuously on this place since he was five years old. This is approximately 87 years.

Addison Hoard

Addison Hoard was born January 12, 1848, at Chase Mills, N. Y. When he was seven years old his parents, Alonzo and Keziah Hoard, moved to Wisconsin, settling near Lone Rock. When Addison was 22 years old he visited a cousin, Harvey Hoard, in Iowa and while there filed on a claim. The next spring, in 1871, he and his brother Orison came to Iowa only to find a claim jumper living on Addison's claim and no other land available. The brothers decided to push on west into Dakota Territory. They crossed the Big Sioux River and filed on claims in what is now Alcester Twp.

In 1874 the brothers filed on a claim for their parents and induced them to move to this locality.

On Nov. 4, 1880, Addison Hoard was married to Mary Ann Costar, daughter of William Costar, also a pioneer settler of the vicinity.



Addison Hoard

Addison Hoard was an industrious man. Besides maintaining his farming operation he ran a drug store, worked as a carpenter and owned and operated the first telephone exchange in Alcester.

Four daughters were born to the couple: Effie May Hoard, married Ernest Hoff; died June 22, 1958; Myrtle Hoard, died August 20, 1890; Mable Hoard, married Roy Newell, died August 10, 1915; Esther Hoard married Roy Newell July 29, 1920. Esther Hoard Newell is the only surviving daughter, but there are several great and great, great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoard lived out their lives at Alcester. Mr. Hoard died May 5, 1932. Mrs. Hoard lived until April 14, 1947. Mrs. Hoard was one of the 18 charter members of the Congregational church in Alcester.

Alonzo and Keziah Hoard

Addison and Orison Hoard, who settled in Dakota Territory in 1871, filed on a claim for their parents in the spring of 1874. Alonzo and Keziah Hoard listened to the boys' arguments for coming to Dakota and packed and loaded their belongings and headed west.

Alonzo Hoard and Keziah Small, who claimed relationship to President Andrew Jackson, were married in 1844. Ten years of their married life were spent in Louisville Township, New York, near the St. Lawrence River. They then decided to move west and they settled in Wisconsin near Lone Rock. Here they lived until coming to Dakota in 1874.

Besides Addison and Orison, their family now included three more sons, Eason, John and George, and three daughters, Laura, Mary and Effie. George, the youngest son, was named George Jackson Hoard in honor of Keziah's illustrious relatives.

After several years on the farm, Alonzo and Keziah moved to Alcester where with their son, Orison, they opened the first hotel. He lived here until his death, May 17, 1891. Keziah Hoard lived until September 1, 1904.

John Hultgren

John Hultgren was born in Sweden in 1840. He arrived in America in 1869. He went first to Chicago, where he lived four years. He was in Chicago during the great fire and lost all his belongings except for the clothes he wore and the money in his pocket. In 1873 he came to Dakota and homesteaded near the Beresford area. This was largely a Norwegian community and being a Swede he did not like living among the Norwegians.

In 1879 he sold his farm and purchased one south of Alcester in Sioux Valley Township. The quarter section cost him $192. He acquired an additional eighty acres as a timber claim.

In 1880 he again ventured among the Norwegians at Beresford, but only long enough to court and marry Miss Gurianna Monson. Their home was a sod house until 1892 when the present house was built, where they lived the rest of their lives.

Mr. Hultgren was famous for his feats of strength and weight lifting and he was able to lift and load a three hundred pound barrel of salt into a wagon by himself.

They had four children, Michael A., John A., Elmer A., and Emma Hultgren.

Mr. John Hultgren died in 1914 and Mrs. Hultgren died in 1924. None of the children are now living but the farm is owned and operated by Dennis Hultgren, a grandson.

Doctors Andrew and Anna Hyden

Andrew Anderson was born on September 19, 1863, in Sweden. He came to Minnesota at the age of 18. He worked as a logger for awhile but realized the importance of an education so worked his way through school by doing chores for a farmer, canvassing for books and many odd jobs. He attended Carleton College, University of Minnesota, and received his M. D. degree in 1894 from Keokuk, Iowa Medical College.

When he took out his citizenship papers he changed his name to Andrew Hyden, which is Swedish for "son from a cottage." He started his practice of medicine at Erwin, So. Dak., but the grasshoppers and drought in that community left him without any source of income. He learned of a vacancy in Alcester and came here in February 1895.

Dr. Andrew Hyden experienced all of the hardships of the "country doctor" of the horse and buggy days in serving the Alcester community. He was of a philosophical nature, and his friends counted it a privilege to visit with him.

Anna Kjestine Christiansen Bredall was born November 10, 1873, in Schleswig-Holstein (now

Dr. Andrew Hyden

a part of Denmark). She came to Union County with her parents when she was three and a half. They established a fine home 12 miles south of Alcester.

Anna was ambitious and she was determined to get an education. She worked for her board and room in Elk Point, where she took her high school work. She had her pre-medic work at Battle Creek Mich., and much of her medical training at Northwestern University Women's Medical College and at the Rush Medical College of Chicago. She worked her way through school.

She met the young Doctor Hyden from Alcester at the Union Creek Lutheran church at "Julotta" services during Christmas vacation in 1895. They were married August 4, 1896. The young Mrs. Hyden went to Keokuk Iowa Medical College to complete her training for the Doctor of Medicine degree, which she received on March 4, 1897. She returned to Alcester and joined her husband as a physician.

This partnership, in serving the community, continued for the next 34 years until she was suddenly taken by death on February 2, 1932. Dr. Andrew Hyden continued in a limited practice until shortly before his demise on August 21, 1938.

Together, the two young doctors built two homes in Alcester. In 1898, they moved into their new brick home and office—now the Kiel Hotel. In April 1910, they moved into their newly built home in the former Park area. The large and spacious grounds surrounding the home afforded Dr. Hyden ample opportunity to exercise her deep love of nature by having many trees and flowers. They had their joint practice of medicine in this home.

Dr. Anna Hyden worked diligently for what she considered best for the community. She was active on the school board, and she had much to do with the establishment of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association.

The Doctors Hyden had three children. Anton (1897-1961) was the Dr. Anton Hyden of Sioux Falls; Maude Margaret was born in 1899 and died from scarlet fever in 1906; and Ida, born in 1906, is Mrs. Charles S. Beal of Winnetka, Ill. Mrs. Beal is a graduate in medical social service from the University of Minnesota.

Herman Jacobs, Sr.

Herman, J. William and Peter Jacobs came with their mother Elsabea Jacobs, from Germany to Lyons County, Iowa, in 1880.

In May of 1885 the family moved to Dakota Territory and Herman bought a farm in the Garland vicinity which is now owned by his three sons. Herman was a member of the Garland school board and served on the Sioux Valley township road committee.

In 1890 Herman married Miss Wilhelmine Ley, also of Germany. They lived to celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary.

Peter Jacobs married Mary Richter of Alcester and their later years were spent in and around Hawarden, Iowa.

J. William Jacobs and his mother moved to a farm near Big Springs where the mother died in 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Jacobs, Sr.

Herman Jacobs died April 22, 1954. Mrs. Herman Jacobs died May 9, 1956.

Descendants are: Mrs. Ella Pike, Fritz and Violet of Beresford; Frank of Akron, Iowa; Robert of Sioux Falls; Elmer of Readlyn, Iowa; Herman Jr., of Alcester; and William, deceased, of Alcester.

Descendants of Peter Jacobs are: William of Inwood, Iowa; Peter of Jessup, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Dailey of Jefferson, S. D.; Mrs. Ella Bush of Waterloo, Iowa, deceased.

Johannsen

H. H. (Hans) Johannsen was born in Germany, April 7, 1841. His wife, Anna Keiser, was born December 26, 1842, in Germany. They were married in Germany in 1868.

In 1870, with their young son, Peter, they came to America, arriving in New York City where they

remained for a short while. From New York City they went to the vicinity of Tama, Iowa. Their children, Amandus, Amielie and William, were born there.

They came to Dakota Territory in 1877 or 1878 and filed on a homestead and a timber claim one mile south of Alcester. Here a son, John, was born. Their first home was a dugout.

In 1882 his wife Anna died. In 1884, he married Mrs. Henriette Draves Rosemore and they had one son, Arthur. They were charter members of Peace Lutheran Church.

H. H. Johannsen spent most of his life on the farm he homesteaded, except for a few years when they resided in the city of Hawarden. They later moved back to the farm where he died in 1920.

A nice set of buildings was put on the homestead as well as a large orchard and a walnut grove. About 1958, the buildings were destroyed and moved. The trees were uprooted and burned so at present this is barren land.

There are no living children but there are 129 living descendants.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Johnson

Early day residents of Alcester, Union County, S. Dak., were Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Johnson. Both were born in Sweden in 1860 and came to America with their parents about 1868. Mr. Johnson with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Johnson, and Mrs. Johnson (nee Mathilda Nilson) with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Nilson. In those days it took several weeks to cross the ocean and both Johnson and Nilson families experienced considerable hardship and misfortune, and not without tragedy in reaching their destination as well as thereafter.

They grew up in the Big Springs community and after their marriage on May 21, 1884, they engaged in farming for some eight or nine years. In 1893 they moved to Alcester where Mr. Johnson had purchased a general merchandise store with his brother. This building in which the business was located was first constructed in West Sioux Falls in 1898 where A. E. Edson had a general merchandise store. He decided to come to Alcester and go in partnership with the Johnson Bros. Mr. Edson and A. P. Johnson took this building down piece by piece, numbering each piece of lumber, and hauled it down to Alcester by horse and wagon and reconstructed it by the same pattern. It was called the Johnson Bros. and Edson General Mdse.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Johnson

After a few years, Axel Johnson and Edson sold their interest to A. P. Johnson and the name was then changed to the A. P. Johnson General Mdse. He carried on in this business for 23 years when he retired. The building is now occupied by the Morris Grocery and Corner Cafe.

Mr. Johnson was active in civic affairs of the town and clerk of the school board for 43 years, secretary-treasurer of Sammies Oil Co. for 12 years and City Assessor for many years.

They were both active members in the Baptist Church in Big Springs and Alcester, Mr. Johnson serving as chairman and deacon for about 45 years. His hobbies included writing poetry and raising purebred chickens.

John J. Johnson

John J. Johnson (sometimes known as Sioux City Johnson) and his family came from Sweden in 1869, living at first at Sioux City, Iowa. He was the father of Etta Johnson and Mrs. Sophia Oden. Sophia was one year old when they came from Sweden and Etta was born in Sioux City.

Mr. Johnson homesteaded a farm 4½ miles southeast of Alcester, the farm now owned by Leslie Bergdale and occupied by the Jerry Eilers family.

When John Johnson homesteaded the farm (about 1874) he walked from Sioux City to Sioux Falls to prove up on his claim. He never saw a person going or coming back.

Mr. Johnson farmed in the summer, and walked to Sioux City in the fall to work in the gas factory during the winter months.

Upon first coming to their claim, the family lived in a sod house they made. All their firewood was hauled by oxen from by the Missouri River at Elk Point. They walked up to the Virginia school house, going towards Hudson, for the mail. They also walked to Big Springs to attend church. Before the Big Springs church opened, church was held at the old Ring homestead, now owned by Mrs. Myrtle Anderson.

Mr. Johnson passed away in 1903 and Mrs. Johnson in 1927. Their children (all deceased) were Charley, Mary, Andrew, Sadie, Sophia and Etta. A grandson, Roy F. Oden, lives in Malibu, Calif.

Peter Johnson Family

From Sweden, in the spring of 1882, emigration to America was heavy. Peter Axling and wife had gone over several years earlier. Now her sister, Selma, and husband, Peter Johnson, decided to join them.

Peter bought transportation from the Inman

Line in Gothenberg for three adults—that included Selma's father and six children at a cost of Kroner 642.50 paying their way to New York. Divide this sum by four and you have approximate cost in dollars. This was on the S. S. Nevada.

They left Sweden about April 12th, arriving in New York the 24th and at Calliope, Iowa, their destination, April 30th. Peter walked out to Axlings in the evening—about 6 miles. The Axlings took a team and wagon to bring the rest of the family. They arrived in Dakota Territory early on May 1, 1882.

Peter got busy looking for one of those cheap farms. Everything here had been filed on; however, he found a relinquishment which he bought for $350.00. This was a quarter section three miles east of Alcester described as the NW¼ of Sec. 30, Twp. 95 Range 48 of Union County, Dakota Territory. It had a homestead shack on it 12x20 and a little dugout barn. Peter decided he could fix up the shack the first year and make it livable, then later he could build onto it on two sides to make more room. Into this he moved his family at once and it became the family home of Peter and Selma Johnson and children—Elmer, 13 years old, Oscar, Hilma, John, Axel and the youngest, Lottie, 2 years old. Ed. S. was born in this house April 8, 1886.

Selma's father was a tailor and he spent his time sewing coats for the boys. He died July 30, 1886, and was buried just inside the east gate in the Big Springs cemetery, his marker having the inscription Eric Wall on his grave.

They had to start from scratch to make a home in a place like this. Peter bought two cows, one pig and some chickens; he also bought two steers which he trained into work animals. He did farm work with those oxen five years, though they had a team of horses the last two years.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, building its line in 1883, built through the extreme northwest corner of the homestead, so that is really when Alcester was started. Elmer was the first store clerk in Alcester, working for a man named Rose.

Peter Johnson Family. Elmer and Oscar not on picture. Left to right: Axel E., John, Hilma (Mrs. John Dahlin), Ed. S. in cute knee pants—always a dresser that feller, Peter Johnson, Mrs. Selma Johnson, Lottie (Mrs. Emil Tunell). Picture taken about 1894-5.

Peter Johnson died May 16, 1898. Selma Johnson outlived him many years; she died January 7, 1937.

Elmer married and settled down in Hawarden; he was in the merchandising business till he died March 1, 1915. Oscar worked around on farms—did not live to be very old as he died July 30, 1896. Hilma worked mostly in Hawarden till she married John Dahlin; they farmed a few years till he became county sheriff and then they moved to Elk Point where she died June 4, 1937.

John married and farmed in Union and Moody Counties, moved to Alcester where he died October 26, 1931. Axel married and farmed the old homestead till 1944 when they moved to Alcester where they still live. Lottie married Emil Tunell and lived on the farm till her husband became sick; they moved to Alcester where he died—she's still living there with a daughter. Ed. S. married and farmed various places till his wife died, then he moved to Alcester where he is at this time.

Peter Johnson Family

The Peter Johnson family with six children came directly to Big Springs and were among the first to settle in that part of Union County. They came overland from Sioux City and when some few miles from their destination, the family was saddened by the tragic death of their mother. She was the first white woman to be buried in this part of the country.

The father was sick the entire first summer. Indian scares were numerous. Their claim shanty burned down. A dugout took the place of the shanty and this was the family home for many years. Unable to find work and being destitute, Mr. Johnson obtained work in Sioux City, Iowa, which then was a mere village. He often walked the entire distance of 45 miles to his homestead, sometimes carrying a sack of flour on his back. The time was when they were entirely without food, and there would be no more until a neighbor brought groceries from Sioux City some time late that night. The hired girl told the children that if they would be good and go to bed she would make them some biscuits and awaken them when the groceries arrived. This she did at midnight.

Schooling for the children was very meager. The older ones, as young as nine years, were "farmed out" for their own keep and what little they were able to earn and bring back to the family support. School attendance was a "now and then" proposition.

However, all was not gloom and discouragement. The family eventually became established and began to prosper as farmers. They built a new house and other farm buildings as they began to go forward and filled a prominent place in the com-

munity. They were active in the Baptist Church at Big Springs.

Besides the homestead of 160 acres, they took a timber claim of 80 acres which was granted by the government for planting a required number of trees.

The children of the Peter Johnson family (now deceased) were Mrs. John Bankson, Axel Johnson, A. P. Johnson, Mrs. A. E. Edson, Henry Johnson, Mrs. Abraham Olson and Mrs. Alfred Aronsen.

Cornelius and Amelia Keiser

Cornelius Keiser was born in Germany in 1846 and he immigrated to the U.S.A. with his sister Martha and brother Peter and they made their home near Richland, S. D.

Amelia Micholson was born in Germany in 1858 and she also came to the United States with her parents, sisters and brothers. She and Cornelius Keiser were married at Richland in 1874. They homesteaded on a farm southwest of Alcester—one mile west of the old Peace Lutheran Church. They established a large brick home and lived there until they moved into Alcester in 1920. Cornelius passed away in 1921 and his wife in 1942.

The following are the children of the Keisers and their families:

Theresa married Charles Cox. They adopted her niece, Edna.

George married May Anderson (deceased 1925). Carmen, Fern and Clayton were their children. George married Daisy Heldt in 1932. He passed away in 1958.

Mattie married Charles Williams. Their sons are Oliver, Edmund and Rolland. Mr. Williams passed away in 1957.

Walter married Lilly Porter. They adopted Lois and had one son, Darold. Walter passed away in 1950.

Maggie married Martin Hoppman, who was drowned in 1916. They had one daughter, Edna. Maggie passed away in 1919 in the flu epidemic, as did her sister, Millie.

Emma married Swan Gustafson and they had two daughters.

Otto married Ruth Warner. Their sons are Raymond and Loren.

Frederick Larson Family

Frederick Larson (1838-1932) immigrated to America from Sweden in 1869. He settled on a farm west of Big Springs. This homestead has now been in the possession of the Larson family for 92 years. With the exception of about 10 years it has been continually farmed by members of the Larson family. C. Fred Larson, son of Charley, is now the owner.

Frederick Larson was married to Louvisa Jonson in 1872. She was also a Swedish immigrant. The story is told that Louvisa had a "claim" near Alcester which she traded for a plow when she married Frederick. This plow is now in the Vermillion Museum. They had five children: Hannah, John Frederick, Charley, Amanda and Alexander, better known as A. D.

Two of the sons, John and A. D., were members of the State Legislature; John about 1904 and A. D. in the 1930's. Both these sons attended the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. John graduated in 1902.

To Charley goes the credit for keeping the Larson land in the family. He farmed it for many years. The girls, Hannah and Amanda, were seamstresses in Alcester for almost 20 years.

According to his obituary, Frederick Larson was the first person to be baptized into the Big Springs Baptist Church when it was founded.

John was married to Emily Lindblom in 1904. He was very active in local affairs, especially during the First World War. He died in 1919 at the age of 44. Four of his five daughters, Iva, Flavia, Louise and Alpha, graduated from Alcester High and the University of South Dakota. The fifth daughter, Minnie, died while a junior in high school. It is in her memory that the Minnie Larson Scholarship cup is given each year to the highest ranking junior.

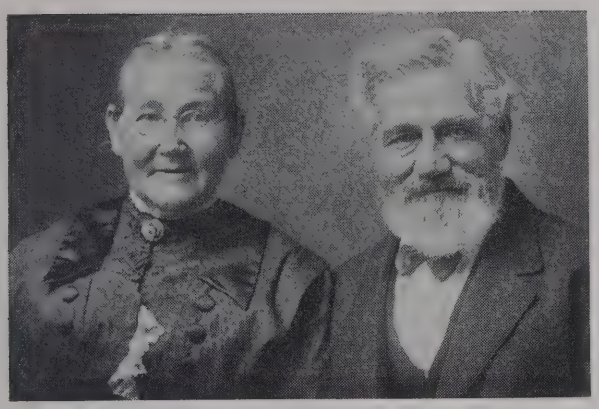
In 1955 the story of the Larson "Cap and Gown" was given a good measure of publicity. John had purchased his own cap and gown when graduating from college, as was the custom in those days. All the four daughters used it when they graduated. Flavia received her M.S. Degree wearing it. In 1955, third generation Mary Holt, daughter of Louise, wore it when she graduated from the University of California at Riverside. In 1961 it will again be in evidence when Ann Bartholomew, daughter of Alpha, graduates at the University of South Dakota.

The descendents of Frederick Larson in the third and fourth generation are: C. Fred Larson and children—Charlotte, Linda, Janet and Mark; Iva Flood of Miami, Florida; Louise Holt, children —Mary, Loyde, Jr., and Donna, and grandchildren —James and Thomas Drage, Anna Marie and Lisa Cook, all of San Bernardino, Calif.; Flavia Thompson of Jefferson, Iowa.

L. J. Larson Family

L. J. Larson arrived in New York from Sweden in 1869. In 1872 he married Josephine Jonson. Then the young couple set out for the wide open spaces, their destination being Big Springs, Dakota Territory.

There they stayed with relatives while constructing a sod house on the homestead, one mile north and one and one-half miles east of Alcester. Later they built another house; this house, with barn and other outbuildings and their clothing and personal effects, burned in a prairie fire about



Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Larson

1879. While homeless they stayed with a bachelor living on what is now the Alcester Golf grounds—his name Will Kelley. Here they stayed until another home was built.

Mr. Larson had two yoke of oxen with which he plowed the prairie ground.

They retired, moving to Alcester in 1912. The home they retired to was one of the first in the Ofstad & Svarry addition to Alcester—now the home of the Chas. O. Larsons.

The Larsons had seven children—Josephine, John, Alma (Mrs. Alfred Pearson), Charlie, Ed, Henry and Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank Doty). Now living are Miss Josephine Larson of Canon City, Colo., and Chas. O. Larson of Alcester, 17 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

Peter Lawson Family

Peter Lawson came from Sweden with his parents in the year 1869 and first lived at Boone, Iowa. In 1872 the family came to Union County, Dakota Territory, and took up a homestead located seven and one-half miles south of Alcester. They made the trip via ox team.

Pete Lawson and Anna Erickson get married. Picture taken in Calliope, evidently before Hawarden became a town.

In those days of hardship and discouragement he felt the need and importance of an education. He attended the University of Vermillion. He was a zealous church worker. In 1889 he married Anna C. Erickson and lived on his farm one-half mile south of Alcester where he raised his family of nine children and a niece.

He had two sisters, Hanna Lawson and Mary Lawson Dussing, and two brothers, John and Oscar E. Lawson.

John Frederick Lindberg

John Frederick Lindberg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, September 28, 1843. He was married in Sweden, he and his wife coming to America in 1865—this trip over the ocean then taking three weeks.

Settling first in Village Creek, Iowa, they stayed there until 1868 when they came to Sioux Valley Township, Dakota Territory, settling on a homestead a little over two miles south of Big Springs.

The Lindbergs had two sons, Charles born in Iowa, and John born in Sioux Valley Township, he being one of the very first white children born in this township. John now lives in Akron, Iowa, and he will be 93 years old on July 8.

Mr. Lindberg, Sr., was a charter member of the Big Springs Baptist Church. He passed away in 1916.

Eric Lindgren Family

Eric Lindgren came to this country from Sweden with his children in 1883—his wife having passed away in January of that year. He had seven children: Hannah, Mary, Martha, Gothard, Eva, David and Lydia. They located on a farm one mile east and about a half-mile south of the Big Springs Church. Here he lived until his death.

The son David met his death in a double tragedy. He and Milton Silene, the son of the pastor of Big Springs Church, drowned in the Sioux River where they were bathing. They were buried side by side in the cemetery in Big Springs.

The descendants living now are Mrs. Eva Johnson and Lydia Lindgren of Long Beach, Calif.; Mrs. Nellie Larson, Harry and Edgar Broline, Clifford and Byron Cox of Alcester; and Mrs. Evelyn Sparks of Los Angeles; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Gothard Lindgren

Gothard Andrew Lindgren was born in Magetorp Lannas Sockew Sweden on Nov. 26, 1871, the son of Eric and Anna Lindgren. In 1883 his mother died and in April of that year his father came to America, locating at Big Springs, in Dakota Territory. The Merton Henry's now live on the old Lindgren Homestead.

Gothard worked for different farmers in the community and later clerked in a store owned by Axel Johnson in Calliope, Iowa. In 1900 he went

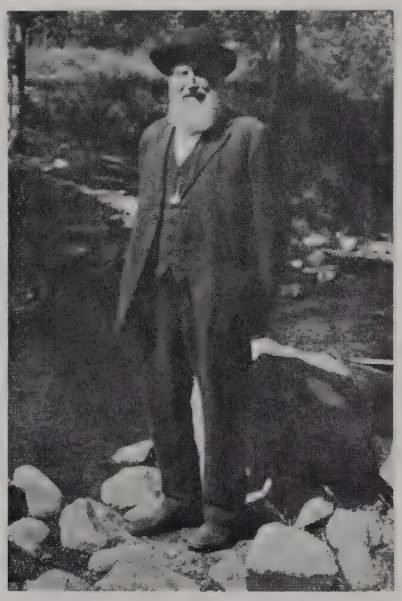
into the clothing business in Alcester and later into the automobile business.

On Nov. 21, 1909, he married Miss Vina Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peterson, another pioneer settler of Big Springs. One daughter, Evalyn, was born to them.

In 1919, Mr. Lindgren sold his interest in the store to Wheeler and Anderson and the family moved to Long Beach, Calif. The daughter, Mrs. Hale Sparks, resides in Los Angeles, Calif. Mrs. Lindgren died March 17, 1945, and Mr. Lindgren on June 28, 1947. Mr. Lindgren had five sisters and one brother, three of whom still survive.

Ole J. Lykken

Ole J. Lykken came to Dakota Territory from Bynes, Norway in 1871. For a time he worked on the steamboat between Sioux City and Yankton. Their homestead was in the Nora vicinity.



Ole J. Lykken

Mr. Lykken was active in the affairs of the community and was one of the instigators of the Nora Creamery. They endured the hardships common to the early pioneers of this territory and lived a full and useful life.

The descendants are Lars, Sigvald, Isaac, Betty. Grandchildren are Oneal and George Lykken, Mrs. Henning Westin, Mrs. Robert Tiotrum, Isaac Lykken, Jr., Mrs. Stanley Swanson, Mrs. Marvid Oie, Mrs. Alvin Anderson, Mrs. Emil Klemme.

Mr. and Mrs. Sigvald Lykken

Sigvald Lykken was born July 23, 1882, near Nora in Dakota Territory, the son of Ole J. and Anne Lykken. He attended school at Nora and then at Jewel, Iowa. He worked on his father's farm until his marriage to Betty Larson of Platte, S. Dak., on September 6, 1905. They moved to a farm known as the Ole Holthe farm in the Nora vicinity, living there until 1918 when they moved to Sioux City because of Mr. Lykken's ill health.

A year later they purchased the 40 acres where Oneal Lykken now lives. Here they spent their lives until Mr. Lykken died August 25, 1940. Mrs. Lykken then purchased a house in town where she still resides.

Mrs. Lykken was born May 1, 1880, in Yankton, Dakota Territory. Three years later, her parents, Ole and Mrs. Larson, moved to a homestead near Platte, making the trip by ox-drawn covered wagon. She received her schooling in the Prospect Hill and Darlington schools in Charles Mix county. Betsy Larson was an accomplished seamstress and did sewing for many of the neighbors. On a trip with her father, Miss Larson met Sigvald Lykken and they were later married.

The children of this marriage are Alice, Ella, Marvin, Joann, Elaine, Bertha, Selma, Lydia—deceased, Oneal, George and Ruth.

Wilson Miller Family

Wilson Miller and wife, Florence Hamilton Miller, settled on their homestead in Virginia Township, Union County, Dakota Territory, in the year 1884, two years after their marriage.

Mr. Miller, born in 1853, came from Wisconsin. Mrs. Miller was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hamilton, who came from Ottawa, Canada, and homesteaded in Virginia Township about 1876. She was born in 1858. These two homesteads adjoined and have been occupied continuously by members of the Miller family.

The descendants are Mrs. Helen Finnie, Waverly, Minn.; Mrs. Evelyn Johnson, Milwaukee, Wisc.; Edith Miller, R. Charles Miller, and J. M. Miller of Hawarden, Iowa.

W. H. Miller is deceased.

Barzillai Morlan

Barzillai Morlan came to Calliope in 1873. He had acquired a farm near the mouth of the Rock River in Iowa. The land did not suit them so in 1876 he took a homestead in Dakota Territory where Will Kratochvil later lived. Mr. and Mrs. Morlan's family consisted of two sons and two daughters.

Both of the Morlan boys took up homesteads. George Morlan homesteaded where Wm. E. Kratochvil now lives. Leslie Morlan's homestead was where Malcolm Kratochvil now lives.

Barzillai Morlan was a shoemaker by trade and had served three years in Company B of the West Virginia Cavalry. He was wounded in battle and lost the sight of one eye.

Mr. Morlan died in January, 1898. Mrs. Morlan died in 1928.

Leslie Morlan married Mary Cooper. In 1920 they moved to Hot Springs, Ark. Leslie Morlan died in 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nelson

In 1896, Paul Nelson and wife, Nannie, with their children, Henry, Nellie and Hulda, came from Cheyenne, Wyo., where he had worked in a coal mine after coming from Sweden.

In 1897 the Nelsons began farming six and one-half miles northwest of Alcester. They purchased the farm now known as the Albert Nelson farm in 1905. Three other children were born in South Dakota, Ella, Albert and Edward. The Nelsons joined Nathanael Lutheran Church, then of rural Alcester.

Paul Nelson died in 1921 and his wife Nannie in 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Newberg

John P. Newberg was born in Hoghult, Tunaforsanling, Sweden, Dec. 6, 1854. He came to America in 1880 and worked for awhile, first in South Bend, Ind., then at Woodhull, Ill., and then came to Alcester, S. Dak., in 1886.

On Jan. 6, 1886, he was married to Matilda Peterson. She was born in Tunassocken, Kalmar Lan, Sweden, June 1, 1856. She was baptized and confirmed in Sweden and came to America August 25, 1881. In 1885 she was married to John P. Newberg at Galesburg, Ill.

The Newbergs came to Alcester to the A. S. Disbrow farm west of town in 1886. One daughter, Elna, now Mrs. O. P. Anderson of Sioux City, Iowa, was born here. Mr. Newberg bought 80 acres in Lincoln County in 1891, just south of the Nathanael Church, moving there in 1892, and was for many years janitor and cemetery caretaker.

In this home three sons and two daughters were born, Charles Edwin, Oscar Eugene, Hildur—who passed away in February, 1916, Arthur John, and Alma—now Mrs. L. R. Ekle. Later, when Mr. Hogseth, who was the father of Helen Horner, passed away, Mr. Newberg purchased the 80 acres just south of the home.

One of the experiences of this pioneer family was a tornado which did much damage to farm places, and completely destroyed Nathanael Church.

Mr. and Mrs. John Newberg

Mr. Newberg died at his home on Jan. 18, 1910. Mrs. Newberg was left with six children to raise. In 1926 she moved to Alcester, and on Nov. 19, 1928, she passed away at the age of 72 years at her home in the northeast part of town. The house built by her father, now owned by the Herb Anderson Est., is occupied by a grandson, the youngest son of Chas. Newberg. The farm house is still occupied by a son, Arthur Newberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Nilson

Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Nilson, with their family of five children, came to the United States in 1869, settling in Lawrence, Kansas, where they were to have taken up homestead. Their voyage across the ocean was marred by tragedy when one of the children passed away and was buried at sea. They were to have been met by an agent to whom Mr. Nilson had sent $25.00 to locate them on a homestead, but on their arrival their agent failed to appear and they were unable to homestead at that time. Downhearted and discouraged, they had to find food and shelter for the family. As Mr. Nilson was a painter, he was able to obtain employment.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Nilson

Shortly thereafter they came to the Big Springs community where, in 1874, they took a homestead about two miles north of the Johnson family.

Mr. Nilson was successful in farming, and became a prominent figure in community affairs. He became a postmaster for the Big Springs community, at which time the office was opened in his home. He also served one term in the South Dakota legislature.

The family took an active part in the Big Springs church. In later years, Mr. and Mrs. Nilson retired from farm life and moved to the city of Alcester where they spent the rest of their days.

The children of the Gustaf Nilson family (now deceased) were Mrs. A. P. Johnson, Mrs. A. W. Johnson, Eric Nilson, Mrs. Edw. Leafstedt and Mrs. J. A. Swenson.

Peter J. Numsen

Peter J. Numsen was born in Marne, Holstein, Germany. He worked for six months, taking care of 60 head of cattle and received $15 for his labor. Tiring of the long hours and little pay, he decided to try his luck in America. Slowly, out of his meager earnings, he managed to save enough to buy passage to this country.

He came to America in 1869, locating at Davenport, Iowa, where he worked for three years. In 1872 he came to Richland, S. D., and the following year homesteaded 4 and one half miles southwest of Alcester.

In 1875 he was married to Johanna Michaelsen, who also was born in Marne, Holstein, Germany. She and her parents came to America in 1869, making their home in Davenport, Iowa. In 1872 they moved to Richland, S. D. Six children were born to the Numsens: John C., Fred, Herman, Robert, Henry and Paulina (Mrs. Lars Buum). John C. is the only survivor. There are 13 living grandchildren; Lee, LeRoy, and Lloyd Numsen, and Mrs. Clarence Hammersma living in the Alcester vicinity.

Peter Numsen gave the three acres of land on which the old Peace Lutheran Church was located. He was one of the charter members of the congregation, which was organized some time in the 18-70's.

Mr. Numsen declares that those early years were severe ones, with the grasshoppers, blizzards and drouth. One 135 acre field of corn was completely eaten by the grasshoppers in two hours. Eggs were 5 cents a dozen; butter 5 cents a poiund; corn 25 cents a bushel; and hogs 3 cents a pound.

P. A. and Christina Olson

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Olson and other very early settlers were fortunate in having first choice of land recently opened up for settlement in Dakota Territory.

The Olsons arrived from Sweden, taking up their residence in Dakota Territory about 1870, homesteading the NE¼ Sec. 35, Alcester Twp. This was in the same section as was the P. A. Axling homestead, Mr. Axling and Mrs. Olson being brother and sister.

The Olsons had three children—Rebecca, who passed away in infancy, Rudolph and Rosa. Anna Peterson (Mrs. Carl Strom) spent some of her childhood in the Olson home and later at times made it her home.

A hospitable home was that of the Olsons. Many a family new in the community—perhaps most often those speaking Swedish—soon found they had a standing invitation to visit the Olson home. Language was not a great barrier there as Mr. Olson spoke excellent English.

Rosa passed away the 24th of August 1939. Rudolph lived to be 80 years old, living all those years from birth to death on the homestead. Since his death on Jan. 30, 1956, there is no one remaining of the Olson family. The four now rest side by side on "Pleasant Hill" at Alcester.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. (Ole) Pearson

Sophie Peterson, as was stated in the biography of her father, Carl J. Peterson, came to Dakota Territory in 1881. She was a member of the first confirmation class of the Nathanael Lutheran Church.

H. O. (Ole) Pearson was born in Sweden on December 31, 1863. He came to the Alcester area as a young man in 1888. He worked for several years for Ed Rosemore and Chas. Finn and in 1899, he bought a farm a mile east and one-half mile north of Alcester.

Sophie Peterson and H. O. Pearson were married on March 14, 1900, at the home of her parents. After their marriage they united with the Alcester Baptist Church and both were active in church work until their health failed. Mr. Pearson served on the church board for more than thirty years.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. (Ole) Pearson

They lived on their farm in Alcester Township until they retired in 1931 and moved into town where they lived until their deaths. Mr. Pearson passed away Sept. 1, 1950, and Mrs. Pearson on May 19, 1958.

Their descendants are: Lawrence W. Pearson, Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. Elmer R. Olson (Sara), Alcester; Lowell W. Pearson, Alcester.

Andrew Peterson

Andrew Peterson was one of the early pioneers of the Alcester area. Born Dec. 22, 1841 in Mariestad, Sweden, he came to America in 1868. A blacksmith by trade, he worked in Michigan to secure passage money for his wife and baby son whom

he had left in Sweden. The baby was taken sick after Mrs. Peterson landed in America and died before she could meet her husband in Chicago. The authorities took the body of the infant from the frightened, lonely mother and they never saw or heard of it again.

From Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson started west to take land in Dakota Territory. They walked from Sioux City to the site of their homestead—the farm presently occupied by Charles V. Ericson, a grandson. The forty mile journey was too much for one day and they slept in a haystack. Their first home on their claim was a dugout. Their twin daughters, Mary and Ida, were born in April 1870.

Mr. Peterson worked as a blacksmith at Richland to support his family. One day while he was away, 21 Indians came to the dugout begging for food. The frightened mother fearing for her daughters, gave them nearly all the food she had and they stole all the wood including a cover for the well, before leaving.

The dugout was their home the first four years, then Mr. Peterson built a sod house. This was their home for 12 years, before they could realize their dream of a frame house. But misfortune was still persisting and this harsh land was still exacting its toll. While hauling lumber from Calliope for their new home, they were caught in a violent hailstorm and Mrs. Peterson was severely injured, suffering seven deep lacerations on her head, even though it was protected by the doubled thickness of two shawls. Mrs. Peterson never fully recovered from these injuries. She passed away seven years later on May 10, 1894.

Their family consisted of four daughters: Mary (Mrs. E. W. Ericson), Ida (Mrs. W. O. Johnson), Hannah (Mrs. James Christenson), Tillie (Mrs. Jno. Christian).

The descendants in the Alcester community are: Mrs. Carl Ericson, W. L. Ericson, Charles V. Ericson, Mrs. Jake Speh, and Mrs. Ruth Kier of Hawarden, Iowa.

August Peterson

August Peterson came to America from Sweden in 1870. He worked in a logging camp in Manistee, Michigan until 1871 when he and his brother Fred came to Dakota Territory by way of Sioux City. The railroad gave those seeking homesteads free rides from Chicago to Sioux City or as far as the rails went into Dakota Territory. He homesteaded in Big Springs township. While he waited for the crops to grow he worked as a blacksmith at Richland, S. D., then came home for harvest.

One summer when the grasshoppers ruined the crop, he worked as a blacksmith on a Missouri river steam boat (from St. Louis, Mo.). They brought supplies to the soldiers in the forts along the Missouri river to Montana. The soldiers were stationed at the forts to protect the settlers from the Indians. On the return trip they carried Montana buffalo hides and pelts. For fresh meat along the way, the men shot the buffalo from the boat as they came to the river bank to drink. When they unloaded supplies at the forts they took on cord wood for fuel.

In 1879, August married Johanna Wilhelmina Ericson who came from Sweden with the Andrew Lindblom family (in 1869). She settled in Sioux City, Iowa and worked as a milliner and dress maker for about nine years. During that time she also homesteaded in Big Springs township. Later she sold her 160 acre claim to Lewis Lawson for the total sum of $325.00 to help improve her husband's farm which is now owned by Herb Bergdale.

August and his brother Fred bought one of the first threshing machines in Big Springs. He served on the Prospect Hill school board and was a township supervisor for many years. In 1902 he purchased the John Callan farm which is one mile north of Alcester and is owned by his son, F. William Peterson. Around 1910 he and his wife retired from farming and lived in Alcester, (in the George Anderberg house).

Mr. Peterson had a stocky build, blue eyes, and light brown hair. He wore a full beard and a mustache. Mrs. Peterson died in 1912, and August died in 1923.

Their descendants are as follows, five children: Amanda married Louis Finn, Parker. Their descendants: Laura (Mrs. Ray Bousfield), Maurice, and Ward, all of Parker; twins Leonard and Louis, Leonard of Pemberville, O., and Louis, of Parker; and Elsie, of Parker.

F. William married Ingeborg Nylund, Alcester. Their descendants: Kathryn (Mrs. Harold F. Wilson) Hot Springs; Marguerite (Mrs. Wendell Leafstedt) Alcester; William C., Lincoln, Nebr.; and Lotus (Mrs. Lloyd Numsen) Alcester.

Ward married Ingrid Nylund, Alcester. (No descendants.)

Arthur married Bertha Ludwig, Alcester. Their descendants: Evelyn (Mrs. Everett Eneboe) Canton; Delores, Alcester.

Alveda married Chas. Edson, Alcester. Their descendants: Viola (Mrs. Lyman Swenson), Vermillion; Oliver, Alcester; Earl, Alcester.

Amanda Finn and F. Wm. Peterson are the only living direct descendants of August Peterson.

Carl J. Peterson

Carl J. Peterson (1827-1909) and his wife, Sara Louisa (1837-1926), together with their seven children, Mathilda (Mrs. John Newburg, 1856-1927), Charles A. (1859-1925), J. Oscar (1863-1893), Hulda, (Mrs. Otto Carlson, 1866-1953), Sophia (Mrs. H. O. Person, 1870-1958), Alma (Mrs. Andrew Martin, 1873-1939), and Anton L. (1876-), immigrated to this country from Smoland, Sweden, to establish a home in Dakota Territory.

The father arrived in 1879, as did Charles A. They worked on the Section at a wage of $1.19 per

day. Many of the early pioneers worked on the Section and thus were able to bring their families to America.

The mother and the six other children arrived at Eden (now Hudson) in August of 1881. They spent their first night in Dakota Territory on the depot platform.

The elder Mr. Peterson had homesteaded on Section 13 in what later became Alcester Township. The first home consisted of a one room sod dugout. It was replaced by a frame dwelling in 1888.

Two incidents will point out that life of the homesteaders was far from being glamorous. Mrs. Peterson walked back and forth to Calliope to carry home household supplies. Mr. Peterson, for his first citizenship papers, walked to Elk Point and back home again in one day.

The children's schooling was received at Cole School. At the time they didn't appreciate a comment made by some of the other pupils about them: "Those Swede kids are Christians." Later they came to realize it was the greatest compliment anyone could have paid them.

Descendants of Carl J. and Sara Louisa Peterson live in the Alcester vicinity and in different states from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in the third, fourth and fifth generations.

Charles A. Peterson

Charles A. Peterson (1859-1925) has already been mentioned in the biography of his father, Carl J. Peterson. He came to Dakota Territory in 1879, worked on the section and later bought a farm four miles west of Alcester. This farm is owned by the Will Andersons at present. For a time, he worked in the Slagle Lumber Yard in Alcester.

He was married to Mathilda Johnson (1859-1899) in 1891. They had two daughters, Anne (Mrs. Will Anderson) and Mabel, who passed away in 1954. The girls kept house for their father after the untimely death of the wife and mother.

The E. M. Peterson Family

Eric Magnus Petterson (later known as Peterson) left with the Tunells from Tuna Socken, Kalmar Lan, Smoland, Sweden, and arrived in Lawrence, Kansas, in 1869. His wife, Christina Charlotta, came to the United States with their four children in 1872. Peter John, Carl Wilhelm, Hulda and Emily were the children who were with her. Eric Albert and Josephine were born later when the family lived in Dakota Territory.

In Lawrence, Mr. Peterson worked for the railroad until 1873, when he left for Dakota. There he took a homestead three miles northeast of what is now Alcester, on the farm which is now the Williard Peterson place. Returning to Kansas, he brought his family and Carl Tunell's wife and children to Dakota. Meanwhile Mr. Tunell remained to prepare a dugout-sodhouse which would be home for both families until the Petersons could

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Peterson

have their own dwelling. Mrs. Tunell and Mrs. Peterson were sisters.

With his yoke of oxen Mr. Tunell met the party at Elk Point. This was sometime during the spring or early summer of 1874. Following the trails north from Elk Point, they forded streams and creeks to their new home. The Petersons probably prepared their dugout-sodhouse that same year. It was situated just west of the long porch which is part of the frame house built about eight years later. The original dwelling is now occupied by third and fourth generations of Petersons now.

The occupation of the first and second generations of Petersons was definitely agrarian, and their formal education was whatever was available. Only one fourth of the third generation are farmers, while only two of the fourth generation work with the soil. Movement from the farm to other work has been the trend of the times. Looking over the family history, it is found, when it comes to education, that there is a tremendous increase since the founding fathers came. Of the 13 third generation Petersons in America, 11 were high school graduates, and half of their number went on to further their education. Many of the fourth generation are quite young, but they appear to be inclined toward education, and many of them have gone on to college.

The church has been the center of activity outside the many homes, and the family's Lutheran beliefs and community interests are in evidence. The family has been represented in the membership of Nathanael Lutheran Church since its founding in 1885. The names of Eric M. Peterson and John Peterson appear on the charter of the church. Their musical talents and interests are members of all generations in vocal and instrumental activities.

After her marriage to Olaf Nelson, Emily, the oldest child, returned with her husband to Sweden.

Hulda married Andrew Carlson. After living in

western South Dakota, they moved to Colorado where the two daughters, Olga and Hildur, now reside. Their son, Oliver, lives in Wyoming with his wife, Cecilia, and daughter, Karen.

Josephine married Andrew Lind, and they became the parents of five children who grew up in South Dakota. Clarence Andrew lives on the farm where they spent many of these years. Esther and Henry William are dead. Henry married Mabel Swanson, and their five children are Robert, William, Marjorie Eggleston, Marillyn Fuhrbacher, Janice and Loren. There is one grandson, William Albert. Mary married Gerald Croes. Their children are Bette, Barbara and Charles. Alice married Floyd Anderson; their five children are Linda, Howard, Pamela, Sharon and Dale.

Peter John married Bertha Sophie Johnson. Their five children with their families are as follows: Myrtle married Fred Day. Their three children are Marvin, Fern Howerton and Dorothy Liston. Grandchildren are Marietta, Cassandra, Cecilia and Angela Day, John and Joel Howerton, Debra, Randall and Kelvin Liston. Florence married Arthur J. Newberg. Their children are Arthur Daryl, Paul and Stuart. Grandchildren are Craig, Brian, Kyle and Kirk Newberg. Leslie Harold and his wife, the former Darleen Hiatt, have a daughter, Bonnee. Carl Willard married Melinda Olson. Their children are Steven, John, Ward and Ann. Robert LaVern married Vida Nemessio. They are parents of two sons, Gary and Thomas. Carl Wilhelm and Eric Albert did not marry.

Fred Peterson

Fred Peterson was born in Vaslergotland, Sweden, Dec. 28, 1847. He immigrated to America in 1868 and made a short stay in Iowa. From there he went to Richland in Dakota Territory where he worked for Mr. Rich freighting up the river. In 1870 he homesteaded on a farm one mile north of the Big Springs church.

In 1873 he married Anna Amelia Aronson of Sweden in Yankton and they started housekeeping on the homestead. They lived there until 1893 when they moved southwest of Akron where they lived until 1906.

There were seven children born of this marriage: Alice (Mrs. Alice Olson), Vina (Mrs. Gothard Lindgren), Charles Peterson, Henry Peterson, Esther (Mrs. Esther Leafstedt), Arthur Peterson. Mrs. Esther Leafstedt is the only survivor among the children.

Mrs. Peterson died Dec. 25, 1906. Mr. Peterson moved to Akron, then to Sioux City, and then to Hawarden. In 1919 he moved to California where he died in 1931.

Peter Peterson

Peter Peterson was born in Vesterjutland, Sweden, in 1811. Just as his father had done in the 1700's, Peter worked in an open pit iron ore mine during the winter and in summer hauled charcoal to the smelter. He married Britta Andersdatter.

When he was 60 years of age they came to Dakota Territory with part of their family and homesteaded in the Big Springs township in the early 70's on what is now the Archie Dahlin farm. Their six sons and two daughters all had farm land in the same community. Britta died in 1896 and Peter died in 1897.

Their descendants were: John, Andrew, Mary, August, Fred, Gust, Lena and Victor.

Quall Family

Ole Quall and Maret Ofstad were married in Ishpeming, Mich., in 1871. Two years later, in 1873, they came to Union County and settled in Spink township. After five years they moved to the farm known as the old Quall place, three-fourths mile north of the Nora Store and about two miles from the first location.

The Qualls farm was well improved and the family, including seven children, had a comfortable 14-room house. The parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Quall made their home with them and there was also one kitchen helper, two year-round hired men, one stableman for the horses; and Joe Berghe stayed with the family for 30 years.

Mr. Quall could truthfully say with a good many of old, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places." He passed away in 1912 and his wife passed away in 1942.

The Quall grove was the scene of the Old Settlers Picnic in 1899, and an article written about that picnic commented on the generosity of the Qualls.

The large house has been remodeled this year. Ronald Quall, who lives there now, is a fourth generation Quall to live there. The others have been Ole Quall, Knut Quall, and Owen Quall.

William Rowley Family

The William Rowley family arrived by train in Dakota Territory in 1874. The family at that time consisted of William Rowley, age 37, his wife, Margaret Ryan Rowley, and children Charles, Florence (who later married Dr. E. F. Price) and Jud. They had been farming near Preston, Iowa. Mrs. Rowley's brother Thomas Ryan, had homesteaded southwest of Alcester and had written the Rowleys that he had secured another farm and they could purchase his farm, which they did, as the story goes, for $500.00. Mr. Ryan had constructed some buildings before they arrived, and the neighbors were living in dug-outs or sod shanties at that time. The remaining children were born as follows: Ida, in 1876, William Jr. in 1878 and Lester 1880.

The family broke up more of the land and farmed through grasshoppers, drouths and blizzards. The mother passed away in 1887, suffering from typhoid fever. The older children had to

The Rowley Family, pioneering farmers and pioneering business men of Alcester. Front row, left to right: Lester, Wm. Sr. and Charles. Middle row: Florence and Ida. Back row: Wm. Jr. and Jud.

assume more responsibility after their father became crippled and they manufactured cheese for the surrounding inhabitants.

Charles married and farmed nearby for several years and eventually moved to Cresbard, S. D. His children were Loretta Fedderson (deceased) and Charles, now of Sioux Falls, who has five children.

Florence married Dr. E. F. Price who was a physician for many years in Alcester, and they left no children.

Jud married Sadie Newell and remained on the home farm. Their descendants include Valle Dickey and two children of Elgin, Ill., and Marlow Rowley, who married Ethel Tuntland, and they have one daughter, Elaine, and are now living on the original homestead.

Ida married George Ham and moved first to Cresbard, S. D., and later to Tacoma, Wash. Ida had no children and is deceased, but Mr. Ham is still living.

William married Mae Siglin and farmed south of town for five years before moving to the town of Alcester. Their descendants include Roma Anderson, who lives in Alcester. She and her husband own the Anderson Elevator, and Royce and two children of Huntington Park, Calif.

William Jr., was a business man in Alcester, purchasing a livestock business in 1910 and constructing a grain elevator in 1918. He was active in civic affairs, being a member of the City Council for years and later, the Mayor.

Lester married and farmed south of Alcester for several years before moving to Kansas, later to Texas, and to Arkansas, where he passed away. His wife, Irma, is still living in Arkansas and they had one daughter, Natalie, Mrs. Allen Anderson, of New England, No. Dak., and four children.

William and Lester both passed away in 1958 and Jud in 1960.

The Sedgwicks

Thomas Sedgwick, J. W. Sedgwick and A. L. Sedgwick came west in the early 1870's. Thomas and family settled in Portlandville, now Akron. A. L. Sedgwick lived with them as he was quite young at that time.

J. W. Sedgwick came to Alcester, married and raised his family here. He was engaged in the livestock business. Later one of his sons was engaged as cashier in the Alcester State bank. J. W. Sedgwick moved to Gann Valley, S. D. in 1910. There are three children living: Lindsey Sedgwick of Rapid City, W. W. Sedgwick of Gann Valley, and Lillian of Yankton.

A. L. Sedgwick engaged in the grain business with Art Disbrow in Alcester. He married and raised his family in Alcester, moving to Wessington Springs when his children were in their teens. Three of the children are still living: Cora Gehan, of Sioux City, Sidney Sedgwick of Wessington Springs and Oliver Sedgwick of Huron.

Pardon C. Slocum

Pardon C. Slocum was born in Cambria, Niagara county, New York, on Dec. 23, 1838. He passed his boyhood in his native county where he acquired an education in district school. He lived there until he was 26 years of age.

An Nov. 21, 1860, he was married to Miss Augusta Freer, of New York. Seven children were born to them. In 1864 he left New York and came to Green, Butler county, Iowa, where he stayed till 1871, then came in a covered wagon to Union county, Dakota Territory, arriving June 17, 1871. He then secured 160 acres of land and erected a sod house, where he moved his family, and began clearing his land.

Mr. and Mrs. Slocum were very persevering and stuck it out through drouth, grasshoppers, and all kinds of hardships and succeeded in turning the 160 acres into a good producing farm.

The children's names are Fred, William F., Norman, Hart, Belle, Ada, Anna. One small boy passed away.

Mr. Slocum was a charter member of A. F. & Am. and had a Master Degree. Mr. and Mrs. Slocum lived in Alcester a few years.

Thormodsgaard

From the valley of Hallingdal, Norway, in May 1881, Erik Olson Thormodsgaard and wife Sidsel together with their four sons and one daughter came to Dakota Territory and in August of the same year purchased the farm five miles north and one mile west of Alcester. There was water, a straw shed and a very small house with one thickness wall. The family immediately joined Trinity Lutheran church.

The son Erik E. and the daughter Ingeborg died in the great diphtheria epidemic in the sum-

mer of 1882. Another son born that summer was also named Erik E.

A son Ole E. continued to farm the home place until shortly before his death in 1955. His youngest son, Oliver, is now farming the land purchased in 1881. Another son, Haakon, located about one-half mile east of the first family homestead. He died in 1958 and his son Nels now lives there.

Engebret, another son, located on the farm known as the Governor Archie Gubbrud farm. Engebret died in 1948.

Erik E. II farmed about two miles from the old homestead and he moved to Beresford a few years ago.

The first Thormodsgaards came to Dakota Territory after first having located in Iowa in 1866. In years that followed all seven brothers and two sisters came to Dakota Territory. The last to arrive was Bergit Thormodsgaard Lappegaard and family who came in 1882.

Tunell

Carl Tunell, Adolph Tunell, Lars Magnus Tunell

Carl Tunell was born in Tuna Socken, Kalmar Lan, Smoland, Sweden in 1845. His wife Elizabeth from the same community, was born in 1843. Shortly after their marriage the Tunells emigrated to the U. S., first settling in Lawrence, Kansas, where Carl got work in railroad shops there.

Times were good then as were also working conditions but Carl longed to get land he could call his own, evidently even if in the wide open spaces. So the Tunells, and some other families from Lawrence in 1874, arrived in southeastern Dakota Territory where Carl homesteaded four miles northeast of present day Alcester.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tunell
(Picture taken in Sweden about 95 years ago.)

The family first lived in a dugout sod house, then as finances permitted a frame house was built and frame outbuildings.

To the Tunells nine children were born, two passing away in infancy in Kansas and Mary coming with her folks to Dakota. She married August Broline and to them six children were born. Charlie the first born in Dakota, never married. Emil married Lottie Johnson; they had six children, one passing away in infancy. Joseph married Emily Olson; they had four children. Selma married Herman Numsen; they have four children, one passing away in infancy. Oscar married Pearl Stoup; they had no children. Mathilda married Ed. S. Johnson; they had three children.

Mary, Selma and Oscar survive. All of the children of Carl and Elizabeth remained in the Alcester vicinity except Oscar who lives at Inwood, Iowa. Of the surviving grandchildren about half are in the vicinity of Alcester, the rest living in several states of the U. S.

The grasshopper scourge in the 70's made it necessary for Carl to seek work or the family would starve. This he got helping build the railroad starting work at Calliope, Iowa, then north to Flandreau, then west to Madison. That meant that Mrs. Tunell must be alone during the two or perhaps three summers her husband so worked, care for the family of young children and the livestock until Carl came home in the fall. Those pioneers, both men and women, certainly had what it took and had it abundantly.

For a time Adolph Tunell, Carl's brother, was in Dakota. He however decided to go east and he and his family spent their lives in Pennsylvania. In 1881 or 82 Carl's elderly parents, the Lars Magnus Tunells, arrived from Sweden. A dugout soddie, somewhat southwest of the Tunell farm proper, became their home. This dugout soddie was perhaps the last such to be used in that community.

In 1909 the Tunells moved to the town of Alcester, moving into a fine home they had built there. There they lived out the remainder of their lives, Elizabeth passing away in 1922 and Carl in 1938. Charter members of Nathanael Church and faithful workers in this church, these pioneers now rest in the hallowed ground they were instrumental in establishing.

Walrath

Richard and Eva Walrath came to the Alcester vicinity about 1885. They came from Iowa with their three children, Winnie, Vinton and Wayne, and settled on their homestead four miles northwest of Alcester. About 10 years later Ruth was born. In 1905, they moved into the town of Alcester and lived there until 1915 when they moved to Sioux Falls.

Mr. Walrath was a violinist and he was one of the first band leaders in the community. All of the family played musical instruments. Ruth is a pianist and she lives in Sioux Falls. She is the only living member of the immediate family, and she submitted this information about the Walraths.

Swen Wennblom Family

Swen Wennblom and his wife, Frederika Bergenfeldt Wennblom, landed in the United States on the 15th day of June, 1869, together with their four children. Swen was born in Smoland, Sweden, April 21, 1823. He died in Norway Township, Lincoln County, Dec. 27, 1914—dying on the homestead he had lived on so long. His wife was born March 30th, 1820, and died May 10, 1907.

They first came to Decorah, Iowa, moving from there by covered wagon pulled by oxen to Beloit, Iowa, just across the river from Canton in the year 1871. Swen Wennblom was a carpenter and school teacher in Sweden. His wife also was a teacher there.

John Wennblom, the oldest son, filed on land in Norway Township June 6, 1874. John Wennblom married Marit Eidem on Jan. 28, 1880. In 1888 they moved to land he had purchased north of Elk Point. He died April 12, 1912. They had four children, Sam, Joel, Rubin and Florence (Finstad).

The second son, Richard Julius, never married. He was quite deaf, and was killed by a train in Canton about 1906.

The third son, Reinhold Wennblom, and Charlotta Johnson were married in June of 1884. Reinhold died at the age of 30 years in 1889. They had three children, Robert, Olive and Henry—the latter dying at the age of one year and eight months. The only daughter, Ida, married Nels Hole, of Fairview. They had four children, the two oldest dying while quite young. Reinhold and Seth grew to manhood. Ida died in February of 1889. Mrs. Reinhold Wennblom, mother of Robert and Olive (Hegness), survived her husband by many years, dying July 4, 1928.

Swen Wennblom was a charter member of Nathanael Church; an organizer of great ability, he had much to do with its beginnings. Robert S. Wennblom, his grandson, while prominent in many fields, will perhaps be most remembered by the fact that he, as was his grandfather, was also an organizer. Largely through his efforts the Lincoln Union Electric Co. came into being, Robert serving as its president for many years. Robert passed away Feb. 9, 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. Swen Wennblom

Chas. H. Wheeler Family

Chas. H. Wheeler and family came to Dakota Territory from Oshkosh, Wis., October 8, 1889. When Dad arrived, he was to have the other hotel, but they had no place to go, so Dad did not get it. So, we lived two weeks on the farm with W. H. Dodd, my father's sister.

Peter Schmidt and Ross had built a store on the corner where the I.O.O.F. Hall is, and they were in what is known as the Harms building. They vacated the back part and Dad moved in to arrange for the hotel. On Nov. 16, 1889, the first day they opened for business, they had three boarders.

In 1890 Dad bought three lots from Elmer Frost for $12.50 apiece. There was a store building next to Herman Steeneck; they moved it so it would face south, and in March the hotel was started. They used that store building for dances and shows.

On Nov. 25, 1890, was the opening of the Wheeler Hotel, and the Alcester Quadrille Band furnished the music. Dick Walrath, Geo. Wheeler and one other were the players. Olaf Olson and John Thunforce bought the store building to use for a drug store; they moved it south of the post office and close to the store.

My father moved out of the hotel in 1893 and C. S. Clark ran the hotel. Mr. Clark lived at Tulare and had no crops so he came here.

In 1894 my father passed away and left mother with four children to care for. She came back in the hotel, and we all went to work and have been here ever since. In 1904 mother built an addition; the place was too small to care for the public.

We have seen Alcester grow from a tiny village to one of the best little towns in South Dakota. We are proud to be a part of it.

Wheeler Children:
May Rundquist, Nelle Faber,
Bert B. Wheeler, Delia Anderson

Peter Gustaf Wiberg

Peter Gustaf Wiberg was born in Norkoping, Sweden, March 21, 1843. His father, a blacksmith, died while the boy was quite young; then it became the mother's lot to bring up and support nine children of which Peter was next to the youngest. In the year 1864 he immigrated to the United States, spending his first year in Superior, Wisc., then lived for a time in Pennsylvania, in Chicago and Omaha, Nebr.

In May of 1868 he came to Dakota Territory, homesteading in Big Springs Township of Union

County about two miles south of the Big Springs Church. He first lived in a log cabin which only had one window. To get lumber he had to go to the river at Elk Point.

He was married in 1876 to Sophia M. Ranberg, she having homesteaded in Spink Township in 1865 —this farm now owned by Mrs. Minnie Wiberg. Mr. Wiberg was a charter member of Union Creek Church. He initiated many different projects in this church. He was chairman of the congregation when it was formed in 1874, after that was elected trustee, holding this office until 1884 when he was elected deacon, which honor he held until his death.

Mr. Wiberg was the father of eight children, a girl and boy dying in infancy. The six sons reaching maturity, William, Victor, Hugo, Adolph, August and Hjalmar, are all deceased.

Mrs. Wiberg died March 7, 1892, and Mr. Wiberg on May 27, 1913. Their living descendents are 9 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 10 great, great grandchildren.

Wilken Wilkens

Wilken Wilkens was born in Marne, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, Oct. 31, 1843. He grew to adulthood in his native land. Mrs. Wilkens, Antje Nee Numsen, was born in Marne, Schleswig, Holstein, Germany, Dec. 17, 1841. They were married March 21, 1872, and emigrated to America in 1873. They made their home at Davenport, Iowa, until 1875 when the family headed west for Dakota Territory, arriving at Elk Point.

At Elk Point they were met by Mrs. Wilkens' brother, Peter Numsen, who had preceded them to Dakota Territory. Peter Numsen located at Richland from where he homesteaded land four miles southwest of Alcester. He donated the northeast corner for the site of South Lutheran Church (Peace).

In 1875 Wilken Wilkens homesteaded land in Big Springs Township which was the family home for years. The first shelter from the elements was a sod house. Some while later a frame house was erected nearby. The original frame house was built of lumber hauled from Elk Point by wagon. This portion still remains with several additions made during the years.

Mr. Wilkens was an organizer of South Lutheran Church (Peace) in 1878 and remained a faithful member until death.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilken Wilkens

The family survived the hardships of blizzards, drouth and grasshoppers as did many early settlers. Six children were born to the family: Christina (Mrs. P. C. Johannsen); Wilhelm, Fred, Mary (Mrs. H. Renkin), Margaret and Wilhelmina (Mrs. Henry W. Shoraga). Fred is the only survivor and lives at Hawarden, Iowa. The Wilkens also reared Katherine Mills from infancy. A number of grandchildren survive and many have remained in the area.

William Henry Willerton

William Henry Willerton came to Dakota in the fall of 1883. At this time the railroad was being built between Hawarden and Alcester.

Mr. Willerton came to Hawarden and rode part way to Alcester on the work train, then walked to the Slocum farm southeast of Alcester. From there he walked over to look at the farm he was later to occupy. He returned to Wisconsin and the next spring returned with a load of machinery and household goods and settled on what is now known as the Willerton farm.

Mr. Willerton lived on the farm until 1916 when he moved into Alcester.

He served as treasurer of the Alcester Township board and on the board of the Alcester Cemetery association. He was on the school board of the Finn School and was a deacon of the Congregational Church for many years.

In 1935 he went to Kenosha, Wisc., where he lived with his son until his death in 1944 at the age of 92 years.

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Free Land

(Told by Carl Tunell to Ed S. Johnson.)

In the early spring of 1881 Carl Tunell and his brother-in-law, E. M. Peterson, were to make final proof on their homesteads, a few miles northeast of Alcester. Coming from Kansas in 1874, they had lived a number of years on government land. Now they must go through certain formalities, then the government would issue patents to them, and they would own the land.

A mandatory date had been set for them to be at Elk Point. No homesteader of that time dared be absent when such a date had been set. That could mean losing his land.

The winter of 1880-81 had been a hard one, and as the date set approached, the weather became more and more wintry, the snow deeper and deeper.

How were they to get to Elk Point with the snow so deep it was impossible to drive or ride horses? There seemed to be only one answer—they must walk. They decided to go first to Calliope, across the river in Iowa, in the faint hope that trains were getting through the snow blockade. Also, there was a chance that if no trains were running, they could get a message through by telegraph. In that case they hoped they could get a later date.

So the two men started out walking. The snow was nearly hard enough so it would carry them, but frequently they would break through. It was a terrific struggle. When they got to Calliope they found that no train had gotten through for some time, and that telegraphic communication was cut off.

It was a terrible trip. How long it took we do not know. It seems the two men were almost desperate when they reached the little town of Richland. It was terribly cold, snowing hard, and the snow was blowing.

Yet no one would give them food and lodging for the night. No, these folks were not heartless. It was the winter of the terrible plague of smallpox, many dying. Those refusing them lodging feared getting the disease.

However, at about the last house in town they were lodged and fed. Carl Tunell said, "Those folks were Irish and Catholic, we Swedish and Lutheran, and while our prayers were different before retiring that night, we loved the same God and Savior."

The two men reached Elk Point on the day set, only to find there was no one there to process their cases. A moratorium had been declared. They must appear later in the spring at the land office in Vermillion. The trip home was just as severe, but they now faced no deadline.

When the date came for them to go to Vermillion, they faced a dilemma of another sort. The tremendous snow covering was now melting. Every creek and draw was a raging stream. Again they could not take the train from Calliope. The Sioux River was in flood. Nor would it have helped them had they reached Calliope, as no train was running.

Driving a team of horses, they set out. Keeping on high ground as much as possible, and travelling only in the forenoons, they got through, though they almost drowned on several occasions. They reached Vermillion on the day they were supposed to be there. They did not reach the land office, however—that had floated down the Missouri River.

Carl Tunell described the sight that greeted them when they reached the location of present-day Vermillion. From the high bank of the upper town, looking south, was a sea of churning, dirty water, almost as far as the eye could reach. The town of Vermillion, which had nestled below on the river bottom, was largely gone.

There were the two men, ready to make final proof on their homesteads—again at the imminent risk of losing their lives—again to find it impossible. Of their trip later we have no record. Probably it was accomplished with little risk.

Did they really get their land free?

* * *

Firehouse and Jail

The firehouse and jail was built where Dr. Shoraga's office is, and there was a bell to be rung for a fire. The first drunk that was arrested was named Quay, and from then on it was called, "Down at the Quay."

The bell on the firehouse would ring at 9 p. m. Every child under 15 had to be home, or with his parents.

In case of fire every man, woman or child would go with a pail of water, from their pump. There were not many fires, usually only chimneys.

* * *

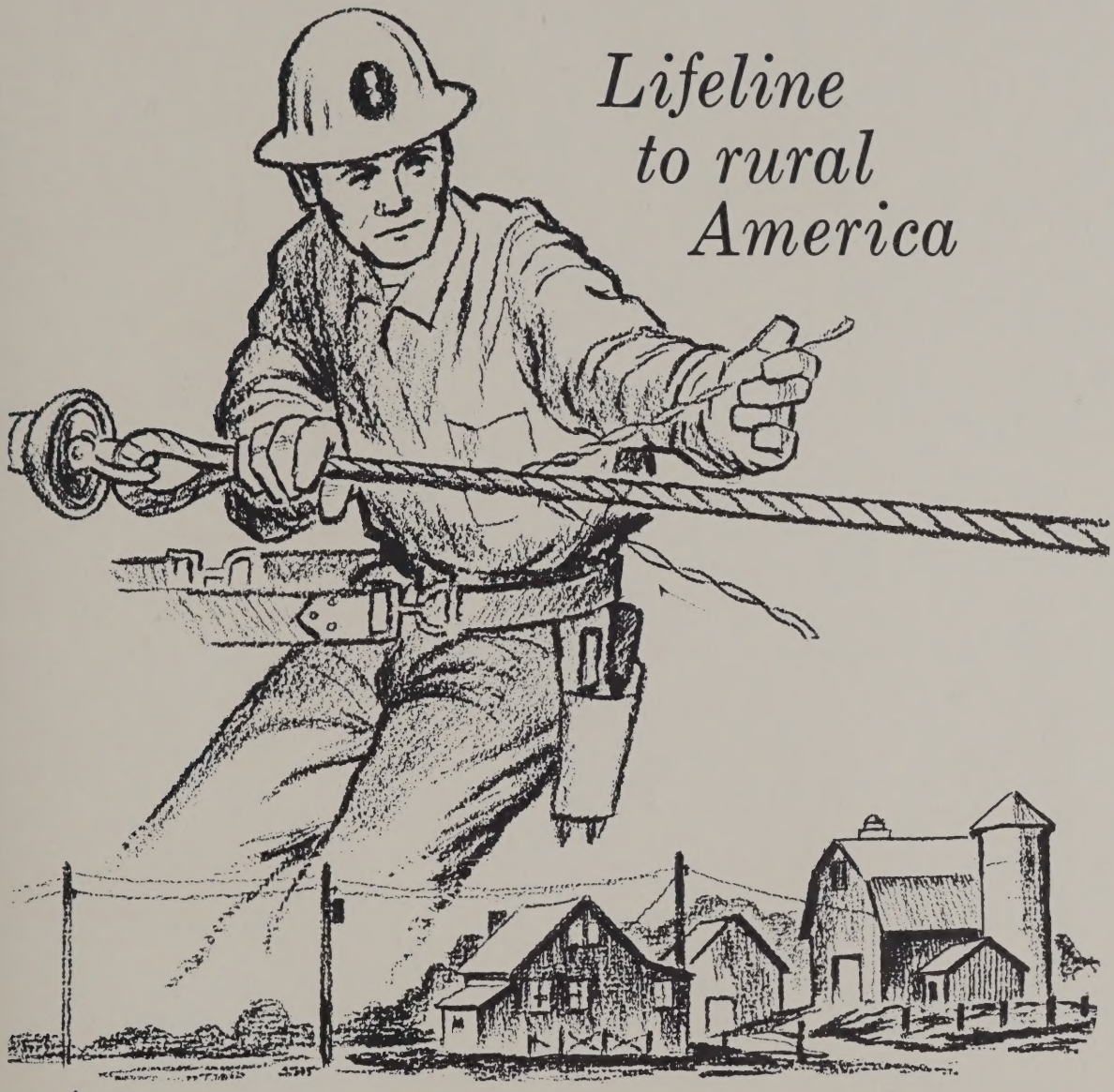
"Covered Wagon" Saloon

In 1890 there were no saloons, so a covered wagon came with liquor. The wagon had a trough on each side of the wagon and a little curtain. This would be lifted, they would ask what you wanted, then they would put it in the trough, and you never saw them.

They would be on one lot one morning, on another next morning. Alcester had no laws so it was run by Trustees.

When they would meet to arrest them, they were on another lot and were never arrested.

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS



Lifeline to rural America

A child touches a switch and produces the miracle of light . . . his mother takes food from the coolness of a refrigerator and prepares breakfast on an electric range. Throughout the day, electricity works for this family, silently, cheaply. At night, there is hot water for a shower, TV for entertainment.

This is the modern rural America. This is life in the same homes which a few years ago were filled with darkness and drudgery. That was before rural people joined together to form their own electric distribution systems, borrowed funds from REA, and built their own power lines.

Today, these rural electric lines are lifelines to about one tenth of America's people. Last year these rural Americans bought one billion dollars worth of electric appliances and equipment from local merchants—equipment built by the people of our great cities.

This is why we say rural electrification is good for all Americans.

Lincoln-Union Electric Co.

Alcester, S. Dak.

State Bank of Alcester

ALCESTER, S. D.

A Pioneer Bank With An Unusual Record of Customer Service

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EMIL T. JOHNSON
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